

**INTERNATIONAL MEETING
Calgary, Alberta
July 8-11, 2005**

Minutes

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

This group needs to be a semi-formal, official body that deals with international matters. 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 decided by this group. The National Offices are the clearing houses for information on international events.

International Pony Club Alliance (IPCA) – main participants UK, Ireland, US, Canada, Australia & New Zealand. Hong Kong, Japan, South Africa and Euro Pony Club could be invited to participate as required.

II. International Registration and Communication

a. Registration Forms

- It was agreed that a standard information form to be used by each participant could be developed.
- Canada suggested that a simple preliminary form be available on the web sites, rather than each country having to wait for the host country to produce a form. Most preliminary information is the same for all trips. Risk forms, medical forms, etc., as required by the hosting country, would follow.

b. Communications Protocols

III. International Pony Club Website

- Because each country already has a good website, it was recommended that each National Pony Club set up an international page, directly linked to every other country's international page. The page could contain any pertinent information regarding international exchanges, dates, etc., with an office contact. This would be the most efficient and least costly method.

IV. International Pony Club Growth

V. Insurance

VI. International Recognition of PC Levels

- It was generally agreed that at or about the B or B2 level (where applicable), the standards of the various countries are very similar.
- It was agreed that a flow chart established to reflect skill achievement at each level would be useful. Each country agreed to send their skill standards to the USPC, where they will be amalgamated to show the differences between countries.
- When choosing team members, it was agreed that each country must take great care that all the standards and criteria for the trip are met.

VII. Funding of Competitive Exchanges

- Land Fees – Current land fees are set at £250 Sterling per participant, and the countries generally agreed that they should remain at that level. It was also agreed that raising this amount should be the decision of the individual disciplines participating in an international exchange.

VIII. International Exchanges

- **Examiner Exchange** – Proposal made by Gordon Wesley, UK.
Length of exchange: General consensus was 1-2 weeks.
Level: Most agreed that B level testing would be most valuable.
Content: While most thought it would be quite useful to observe some actual tests, it was agreed that a group of stranger observing might be too intimidating for the candidates. It was suggested that participation in Examiner training sessions and/or instructors symposiums would also be valuable. A proposal to put weighting in place for show jumping, cross-country and dressage was introduced as a possible topic of discussion for this exchange.
When: USPC has a National Examiners Seminar scheduled for 2004 and a C3 Examiners Seminar in October 2003; CPC may hold an A Test Week in 2004; UK holds an Instructors Symposium in the fall of 2003. Great Britain will invite countries to participate. The flow chart should be completed prior to this exchange. Countries agreed to exchange important test-related dates.
- **Games Exchange** (US, UK, Canada, Australia)
 Ireland expressed great interest in being permanently included in this exchange. There was discussion regarding the additional expense of adding one more team, the need to find 6 more ponies, and the change in hosting rotation to every 5 years.
- **Inter Pacific Exchange** (Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, US)
Hosting Schedule:

Australia	2003
Canada	2005
Japan	2007
Hong Kong	2009
USA	2011

Gordon Wesley indicated that the UK is interested in rejoining the IPE. Discussion ensued regarding the impact of adding another team. It was suggested that perhaps the number of team members could be cut. This subject is to be discussed at the international meeting during the IPE in May.

- **Fox Hunting** (US, UK, Ireland, Canada)
- **Quiz** (Canada, US)
- **Tetrathlon** (Canada, Ireland, UK, US)
 Currently, Tetrathlon is hosted jointly by Ireland and the UK; then by Canada and the US, in an every other year format. Canada suggested the possibility of going to each country every other year (an 8 year rotation rather than a 4 year rotation) but the other countries preferred to leave it as it is currently.

Discussion ensued about the size of the teams. Because of cost combined with organizer difficulty in procuring suitable horses, it was suggested that teams be reduced from 5 to 4 members, and the tour be two weeks instead of three weeks. These suggestions were generally accepted and will be further discussed at the next International Tetrathlon meetings.

Ireland/England	2004
Canada/US	2006

Gun problems were also discussed. Transportation is a perennial problem. Also, the Irish are mandated by law to use rifles, not air pistols.

Gordon Wesley reported that the UK is starting to add fencing instruction to bring the discipline closer to pentathlon.

Tetrathlon Rulebook for use in International Competitions:

In order to eliminate many of the problems incurred in Tetrathlon exchanges, Sue Smith suggested the development of an international rulebook that would highlight the differences between the rules of each country and more closely reflect the Modern Pentathlon rules. There was strong recommendation for this. Ideally, the National Tetrathlon Chairs could all work on the project.

IX. New Directions in Pony Club

- **Upper Age Limits**

Australia	26
Canada	21
USA	21
Hong Kong	21
Euro PC	16

There was great interest in a) how the older age limit works in Australia, b) the process by which the age was lifted from 21 to 26, and c) the impact it has had. Roma Brideoake was asked to share any information with the other countries.

- **Promotion of Pony Club**

X. Chaperones

Australia would like to see the selection criteria for all international teams placed on the websites. All criteria and responsibilities should be clearly outlined. Australia and USA allow NO alcohol on any international trips; host families are not permitted to offer alcohol to team members. For these countries, this can become a serious insurance issue.

It was agreed:

- No relatives or personal coaches should be chosen.
- Nightly meetings are helpful to keep everyone on same page.
- Coach must be flexible and prepared to assume the chaperone's duties, if necessary.
- Coach/chaperone must submit a full report after each international tour.
- Discipline manuals should include participation agreement and all requirements.
- Coach/chaperone must understand cultural differences and should be briefed on the culture before leaving.
- Present age requirements:
 - Australia – 30+
 - Canada – 25
 - UK -- 25
 - USA -- 30+

NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that this was a genuinely substantive meeting and that the dialogue must continue. Nick will look into the possibility of hosting in 2004 in Hong Kong; Ruth check the possibility of the Euro PC hosting; Canada is also very interested in hosting a meeting in the future.