

Report on Informal Meeting RE: Development of International Riders

Hello and Happy New Year!

On January 3, 2009, a meeting was held with Daphne Richard, Julius Bloomfield, Toni , Murray and Bianca Mackenzie, Elroy Karius and Gail Jewell in attendance. The reason was to discuss issues regarding the development and support of current and upcoming Canadian international competitors in our sport.

We had an opportunity to review the Malaysia competition, and comments relating to this event are being forwarded to ECI and Equine Canada through Daphne.

There was a very intense animated discussion and brainstorming around how best to encourage, develop and support riders who want to compete internationally.

To summarize, the following proposals were established to present to the membership:

a) the first set is aimed at the National level, which Daphne will take to Ottawa for the upcoming Endurance Canada AGM:

- 1) Nominate and establish a dedicated person or persons whose sole mandate is to secure ongoing funding to support international riders and programs (to work with the Endurance Canada Sponsorship Sub-committee);
- 2) Request that a portion of the ECI funds be made available to support additional costs which will be incurred for existing rides in Canada who are willing to offer FEI/CEI one and two star events – now required in the new FEI progressive star system;
- 3) To allow, at the time of Team Selection (short list - derived from current database system), the inclusion of subjective parameters in the decision-making process, over and above selecting solely and exclusively by the current points system. This would include the option to consider a horse showing exceptional ability in the first year or two of elite competition, but, based on the current points/ranking system, would not appear on the short-list, but would be ranked on the long-list;
- 4) Horse/Rider pairs considering nominating for WEG 2010 in Kentucky must nominate for the Pre-ride in 2009;
- 5) Nominations for the 2009 Pre-ride(s) must nominate and pay the nomination fee by February 1, 2009;
- 6) Nominees must meet qualifying criteria by July 15, 2009.

b) we also made significant headway for getting an “international riders program” started for ERABC members, which can perhaps be initiated by other provinces as well. In summary, the following proposals were put forward:

Proposal for Review

1. To nominate and establish a dedicated person or persons with the sole mandate of overseeing the securing of funding to support existing and up-and-coming international riders from BC;
2. Regardless of outcome of national proposals above, that BC riders who wish to compete at the 2009 Pre-ride nominate by February 1, 2009.
3. Similarly, qualifications must be met by July 15, 2009.
4. Riders considering nominating for WEG in 2010 must nominate for the 2009 Pre-ride(s).
5. All or part of the International Fund held by ERABC go directly to ride managers to cover cost of including FEI 1 or 2 star rides in 2009;
6. At each local ride this year, short clinics are held dealing with topics related to achieving excellence in the sport of Endurance. This year topics will be at a 'basic' level to encourage any and all riders to attend. By 2010 the clinics will focus on riders dedicated to competing at the 3 and 4 star levels;
7. Immediately firm up 2 dates in February 2009 for an evening seminar on the "nuts and bolts" of competing at the FEI level. One will be in the lower mainland and one in the Kelowna area. These will focus on the logistics and financial aspects of FEI competition;
8. Anyone wanting to pursue international competition but not ready for 2009/10 will be/is encouraged to put forward his/her name. These people will be included in any communication regarding International competition.
9. Anyone wanting to crew, or otherwise support an International team, are asked identify themselves by March 1. This includes riders who may want to crew for 2009/2010 as part of their 'training'.

There was much discussion regarding the 'team' concept. Once we have identified the pool of riders dedicated to International competition, the team concept will be further developed. It would be helpful if, when identifying yourself as interested, you state your interest in team development.