

2019 Christmas Stewards Newsletter 2020

Hoping you have all had a Merry Christmas and looking forward to a prosperous New Year.

I had all good intentions of having this newsletter out before Christmas but with rule changes still coming through, fire and tragedy in SA and NSW and then the constant reminders from our Christmas guru of Christmas fast approaching and the pud to be cooked. Thank you to Bronwyn Gillott and she now reminds us Christmas 2020 is not far away.

So much wonderful support from FEI Stewarding team amidst all this tragedy. Thanks to everyone keeping tabs on us all and I know there are many stewards out there contributing to the rescue efforts.

Jo and Bronwyn will be very pleased to have the FEI Competency tests behind them as the rest of us clear our heads for the task ahead.

There has been much communication amongst FEI stewards on these new tests so if you have any concerns please put it on our whatsapp and we can all help each other. You are not alone.

Take advantage of the mock tests as all questions in the exam are covered in these tests

2020 FEI Eventing Rules

https://inside.fei.org/sites/default/files/Eventing%20Rules%20for%202020%20-%20rules%20changes%20clean%20version_0.pdf

<https://inside.fei.org/sites/default/files/2019%20Use%20of%20Tacks%20Equipment%20%20Dress%20-%202007.05.2019.pdf>

2020 Sanctions

<https://inside.fei.org/sites/default/files/Memo%20application%20of%202020%20sanction%20system-17%20Dec%202019.pdf>

A simple explanation for a complicated change of rule

In previous years eventing was the only discipline to have mandatory yellow cards.

These were issued for dangerous riding (Art 525.1) on the CC course ie continuing on after 3 refusals, riding too fast, overtaking etc.

Now these will be penalized with a recorded verbal warning for which there is no reporting form at this stage so make your own notes, (although FEI say there is I am yet to find it) we would only be involved with dangerous riding in the warm up area

Yellow cards for eventing will now come into line with the other disciplines and be issued for abuse of horse etc

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Art.523.3

Leaving the venue after a fall without submitting to a medical examination will incur a recorded verbal warning which will be delivered to the NF.

Art.524.3.4

Leaving the venue without submitting to the veterinary check after CC will automatically be issued an Eventing Recorded Warning for incorrect behavior which will be issued to the NF.

Art 526.4 *Blood on Horses Please read*

Art 527 *Recorded Warnings and Yellow Warning Cards*

VIP In national events the Yellow Warning Cards are NOT to be put on the official noticeboard.

Art 538.5 *Slight change in wording to Art 538.5 Beware! And always consult the Ground Jury*

Art 539.2.2

Use of double bridles during dressage test allowed for 4 and 5* competitions only (previously 3* allowed)
Both the USA and GB raised concerns on the diameter of bits however the FEI feel the 14mm is working well and Eventing dressage wants to follow their own rules in regard to dressage bits (despite FEI Dressage reverting to 12mm diameter.)*

Art 539.3.2 *Bitless bridles are not allowed for CC*

Art 539.3.3 *Jumping Test – Boots*

*The use of hind boots for the jumping test must comply with Art. 257 of the Jumping Rules
(despite some countries wanting all rules for eventing in the Eventing Rule Book)*

Annex A: *Wavy Bits are allowed.*

FEI Steward courses 2020

Eventing *Taupo New Zealand May 7/9 2020 (Refresher and upgrade)*

Show Jumping *Wellington/ Masterton New Zealand Refresher April 2nd&3rd, upgrade to Level 1 April 4th to 6th
or contact Katrina Dukats*

Dressage *Sydney NSW October 3-4 (awaiting details) or contact Cathie Drury Klein*

Let me know if you are interested in any of these and I can send registrations forms when available.

*We have 2 new FEI Level 1 stewards on the team after the FEI Eventing course in Sydney
Elysha Sargent and Adrian Whiting.*

EA Steward Course2020

Werribee Vic June/July date TB

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***PLEASE NOTE FEI Steward reaccreditation is now every 3 years, NOT 5 as previously.
This will bring stewards into line with all other eventing officials reaccreditation process.
We do have a number of FEI stewards who may need to attend a course this year hopefully the FEI will notify EA if this is the case.***

CONGRATULATIONS

*Penny Dodd has been accredited to Level 3 and is also on the Eventing stewarding team for Tokyo 2020
Well done Penny after years of volunteering at Olympics and WEG and recently stewarding at the Asian Continental Championships.*

Level 3 stewards are nominated by the NF to the FEI for approval. Only 3 per discipline in each country although not all countries do appoint Level 3 stewards.

Chief Steward appointments

In Victoria and NSW All level 2/3 stewards must be given equal opportunity to be Chief Steward at events in their state or in case of SA, Qld and WA sharing with other states.

We all need to work together to achieve this to make it fair and equitable for all stewards Any concerns please contact me and I can make contact with the NEC and OCs

Some of us have had wonderful opportunities to steward at events overseas this year.

Penny Dodd at the Asian Continental Championships (report attached)

Bronwyn Gillott at Burgham International Horse Trials in UK (report attached)

Andrea Webb, Lyn Roycroft, Yvonne Morrison and Teresa Matthews at the Tokyo test event

Lindy Young at Millstreet CCI including ERM (Ireland)

Doris Ridett and myself to Blair Castle CCI,

Caroline James GJ at Blair Castle and Taupo

*Lindy Young and myself at The European Eventing Champs at Luhmuhlen and Burghley CCI5**

I was also at Taupo with the Trans Tasman teams and the new scoring system.

From these experiences we have been able to welcome stewards from the UK and New Zealand at Adelaide CCI5 and Melb CCI.*

*****Good luck to all stewards and teams for 2020*****

Chris Mb 0427343146

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My greatest learning experience has been how Interpretation of the Rules can vary throughout the world.

Why cannot :

- horses wear hoof black and ear hoods at a horse inspection*
- a rider carry 2 whips in dressage training*
- there be a plastic bag on the end of your whip*
- training SJ fences be jumped each way*
- a bit be used if it is not a welfare issue*

Learn basic German before going to Germany although google translate can help

Taupo (NZ) is pronounced Toepore

The fog was so thick at Toepore this year that you couldn't spot a grey horse in front of you, CC start was delayed then a member of GJ was sent out to a particular point on CC to alert riders of a turn so they did not head off in to the whiteout.

Thick fog at Toepore



Topiary at Luhmuhlen



Steward team at Luhmuhlen with
Philine Ganders and George Bazar



Steward Team at Wallaby Hill



2 stoppers on reins



Rope noseband



Black hooves at HI



Bitless bridle SJ



2 stoppers again this time very close



Watch out for this one!



Boots slipped up!



Weighted stirrup



Why not for dressage?



Standing on power cords just for the photo!



A good way to keep the contact and reins secure but??



Practice dressage area at Blair Castle.



Final warm up at Burghley



Watch this space!

Super easy way to pre tape fences. Prototype by Lindy and Lucy.

Cool down at Wallaby Hill with Warwick Oke recording



Stewarding in the North of England

I have had a number of rewarding and educative stewarding experiences this year, but the highlight was undoubtedly being part of a stewarding team in the UK in July.

I checked the British Eventing calendar whilst planning a holiday and discovered that Burgham International Horse Trials fit perfectly with my itinerary. To add to the serendipity, the Chief Steward for Burgham, Fiona Muirhead, is a friend and colleague of a number of Australian stewards, including our own Steward General Chris Wallis. So an approach was made and an invitation generously extended.

Burgham Horse Trials are held near Morpeth in Northumberland in the north of England. Classes are run from BE 90 to CCI 4*S. The event attracts over 450 entries, with around 250 of these in the CCI classes. The venue is a private property with flat grassed areas for dressage and show jumping and a cross country course which for this year's event was designed and beautifully presented by David Evans, course builder for the Tokyo Olympics.



One of the Three Water Complexes on the Cross Country Course

One of the benefits of stewarding away from your home turf is the opportunity to see how events are run elsewhere. Burgham clearly has an experienced and well organised team behind it and everything ran very smoothly. I was warmly welcomed into the small stewarding team by Fiona and also worked alongside an up and coming UK steward Sally Swires. Reassuringly, stewarding practices mirrored what we follow in Australia with the usual bit checks and supervision of schooling and warm up areas. A very welcome difference between

Burgham and the average Aussie event was the beautifully prepared meals I got to eat in a marquee with chandeliers!

Bit Check

An aspect of stewarding I particularly enjoy is meeting and interacting with top level international riders. In Australia, even at local events we rub shoulders with elite Australian riders. Likewise, at Burgham, amongst the competitors were some of Britain's elite riders. It was great to meet these riders and see them in action up close.



The current FEI Officials' Exchange Programme involves individual stewards approaching organising committees of events they may wish to officiate at. I self-funded my participation at Burgham, but application for expenses can be made under the current programme. I encourage all stewards to explore the possibility of stewarding overseas. Thanks Chris Wallis for your assistance in making Burgham happen for me.

Lindys Experience from Stewarding in Ireland, UK and Germany

Rule Interpretation

Different places people with different cultures and languages can read the same rules in slightly different contexts, and it also seems everyone has slightly different ideas where the priorities are within the competition.

What we might think as an important issue, others are not particularly concerned about, but the one thing that seems universal is the welfare of the horse.

I think because of the media exposure this has become the biggest thing that stewards are aware of.

The other priority, as I see it, is anything that directly affects the equal playing field of the competition is addressed immediately by the stewards to ensure it is fair. The riders are VERY quick to pick up on any inequalities!

Other issues pertaining to rules eg clothing, logos, (except at Olympics and WEGs) seem less important.

Bits are always up for discussion but the new rule explanations and the use of common sense seems to sort it out.

At the end of the day, we as stewards, have to use the rules as our guidelines but must also be able to use our commonsense and horse knowledge to resolve some issues that are not addressed in the rules.

One example of different rule interpretation which I noticed between Aust and the rest of the world!!! is the blacking of hooves at trot ups.

I feel they shouldn't put anything on them for the sake of the poor vet who may have to handle them!!! That is just my idea and everyone seems to have their own thoughts, certainly not clear, or no comment about hooves in the rules... so open to any interpretation according to how rules are read.



Arriving at Luhmuhlen



Only the best Michael Jung lungeing his own horse at 6am*

Report from FEI Asian Continental Championships Pattaya Thailand.

Hi Everyone

Just a quick overview of my time at the Asian Continental Championships held at the Thai Polo & Equestrian Club Thailand.

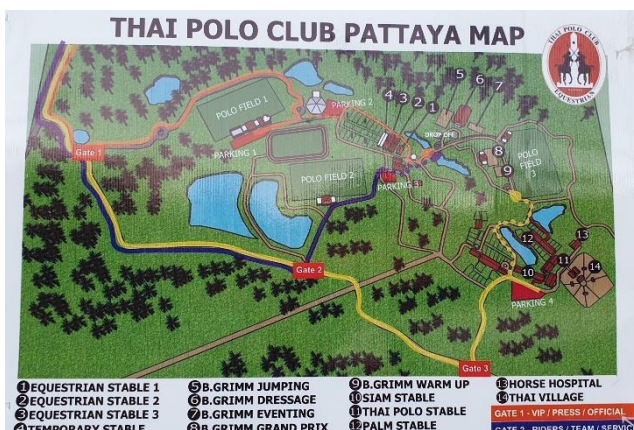
I arrived in Thailand at 11.30 pm on 29th Nov after a slight delay in departure from Perth. A driver was waiting for me at the airport and we drove the 1.5 hour trip to Pattaya. I had received a message from Overall Chief Steward Monica Gomez to take the 9.00 am shuttle out to the Polo Club. So after checking in to the hotel and unpacking, it was straight to bed for a bit of rest.

The shuttle drive out to the Polo Club gave me an opportunity to take in the scenery but I was in absolute awe when I arrived. The stable complex we were using was amazing, and I was to find out later, that this was only a small part. Other stables and Day Yards for Polo Ponies were sprawled out in other areas of the 250 acres.

View from my hotel room on the 27th floor.



Impeccably clean stable blocks



The facility has stabling for 250 horses, 3 International size Polo Fields, A Stick & Ball Training Field, an sand exercise track almost as big as a race track, a main equestrian competition arena, 4 training/warm up arenas including 1 under cover, a cross country course and an 80km Endurance Track. As well as a purpose built & well equipped veterinary hospital.

The Dressage Horse Inspection was held on Saturday Morning and the competition commenced on Sunday. The Eventing Competition commenced on Tuesday & Showjumping on Wednesday.

One of the things that really stood out and impressed me, was the way that the Thai Royalty is treated. The Princess of Thailand was competing in the dressage and it was amazing to see the protocols in place. Members of the Royal Stable Unit were also competing and were responsible for the care and preparation of her horse. When she was due to arrive to ride, the horse was saddled and taken to the practice area. There was a groom with the horse, another attendant with the step ladder for her to get on and another to carry the helmet. There was also a special chair for her to sit on that was taken to all locations where she was riding. As she arrived in a convoy of cars the grooms would all stand to attention with the horse. While riding, if she wanted a drink of water, the water would be taken to her, and handed over with a salute. Even the Thai Stewards on duty would stand to attention and salute her as she rode by. This of course does not happen when she is competing in Europe, but when in Thailand she has the utmost respect of the Thai people.

The Royal Stable Unit standing to attention while the Princess is having her lesson.



Standing to attention with the ladder at the ready!



The Royal Chair.
Taken
everywhere that
the Princess
went.



Even Carrots for the horse, aptly named "Prince Charming", were served up in a Gold Bowl.

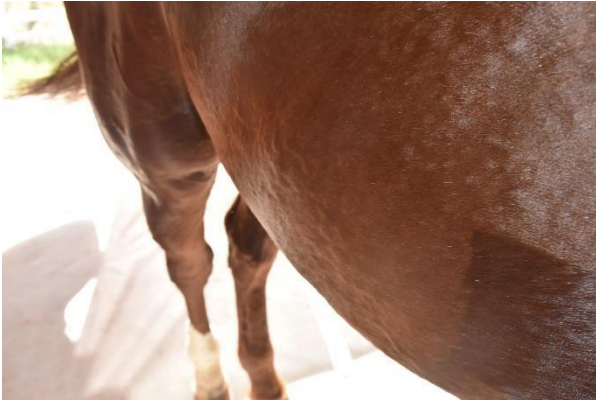
I was lucky enough to get a photo with the Princess and Steward Eva Chang from Taiwan. This photo isn't allowed to be published on social media but I am able to share with friends.



Unfortunately, the Eventing part of the competition was the least supported, with only 10 riders representing 3 countries. It was only 2 star level but still created interest and camaraderie between competitors.

The Showjumping was well supported with 33 riders.

The dressage competition had 13 Riders representing 6 countries.



In regards to horse welfare, we had a few horses having allergic reactions to some small sand fly like flies.

These photos were provided by one of the vets, Dr Eric Swinebroad from the USA. They show the allergic reaction (left photo) and the flies (right photo)



He did some amazing photography and was almost a “Vet Nerd” If there is such a thing. He was very much into the why’s and wherefors and scientific reasoning behind anything of a veterinary nature.

The only other veterinary issue we had was with a Thai Dressage Horse that went down with Colic 2 days after it had finished competing. The horse



underwent surgery that was performed by a vet from the Thai Veterinary University, assisted by Eric. The good news is the horse survived but he was unable to travel back to Europe on the charter flight. He is now recovering in Bangkok and the reports that I



have had back from the English Groom that stayed on to care for him, is that he is doing quite well. Again, these photos are not for social media publication, but I am allowed to share them privately with friends.

Being the first FEI Asian “Equestrian” Championship to be held, there was always going to be some uncertainty as to its success. If it were not for Harald Link & Nunthinee Tanner (the owners of the Thai Polo

Club) the event possibly would not have happened. Harald is also the President of the Thai Equestrian Federation. The Championship competition was approved by the FEI in June 2018, but in August 2019 only 4 months before the event was due to happen, the Asian Equestrian Federation withdrew from it's involvement. The Thai Federation and Major Sponsor's (Namely Mr Link & Ms Tanner) chartered a 737 Cargo Plane for a million US\$ to bring the horses from Europe free of charge. Prize money for the event totalled US\$175,000. During the event there was a meeting held to discuss the future of the championship. The support for the event to continue was overwhelming, with most people commenting that those who chose not to come, would have been sorry.

I am trying to keep this little newsletter to a minimum, so rather than going on and on and adding lots of photos, please check out my photos on my Facebook page, and also follow this link to the Facebook page of the championships. There are numerous stories, photos and videos of the event that I am sure you will enjoy.

<https://www.facebook.com/AsianChampionships2019/>

In regards to experience at the event and rider behaviour etc, I have to say that it was an amazingly friendly event. I think because of low numbers there was a really relaxed feel to the competition. All riders were really well behaved.

The only new piece of gear that I had not seen before was the combined boot that I posted on our Whats App group. It was a tendon and heel boot combined in 1. This boot was legal and weighed in correctly.

Hoping that you all enjoy the report and that you have a great Christmas. Good luck and happy stewarding in 2020.

