# International Carriage Drivers Association

## COMMITTEE MEETING (online)

**Minutes**

**Date** : **Tuesday April 8, 2025**

**Present**

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| Four-in-hand horses | : | Boyd Exell (BE – president), Koos de Ronde (KdR), Glenn Geerts (GG) & René Poensgen (RP) |
| Pair horses | : | Jacob Arnold, (JA), Franck Grimonprez (FG - partly) |
| Single horses | : | Kelly Houtappels-Bruder (KHB) |
| Ponies | : | Maria Buchwald (MB), Lea Schmidlin (LS) |
| U25 | : | Kris Rohrssen (KR) & Elise Strauss (ES) |
| ICDA Special Advisor | : | Hugh Scott-Barrett (HSB) |
| ICDA Marketing & adm. | : | Denise Hertroijs (DH) |
| ICDA General Secretary | : | Marie de Ronde-Oudemans (MdRO) |

**Not present**

Rosanna Walters-Symons (RWS), Jacques Poppen (JP), Maria Henriksson (MHe) & Bartlomej Kwiatek (BK), Martin Hölle (MHö), Franz Schiltz (FS)

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### 1. Welcome

A warm welcome by BE.

### 2. Minutes meeting February 17, 2025

No remarks regarding the minutes of the previous meeting (February 17, 2025).

### 3. Update on the FEI Driving Forum 2025 (Exloo) & FEI Sports Forum 2025 (Lausanne)

**FEI Driving Forum 2025 (Exloo)**

Several ICDA committee members the FEI Driving Forum in Exloo. KHB, MB & HSB gave their view on the Forum. Some general points:

- A very well run & received FEI Driving Forum.
- ICDA was involved in the preparation of the presentations and appreciated as many topics came from ICDA
  KHB: really productive 2 days, especially first day. Important view points. Very good that drivers were present and the ICDA voice was been heard.
- MB: nice to talk more in detail, also the topic of safety on the second day. It would be nice that there would have been more drivers present.
- HSB:
  - General: The FEI gave ICDA a good platform in the presentations. Some points were adopted as their own.
  - In harness horse inspection for CAI 3*: good discussion during the forum and afterwards with the veterinarian commission.
  - Dressage draw: discussions were good, although there are some federations with a strong voice. An alternative as suggested by the German NF is to remain with the blocks

but to draw for which member goes in each of the two or three team blocks. This system with blocks can be negative for individual starters.
- Measurement arena: good discussions.
- Marathon:
  - proposal will be A section or free warm up at a allocated place
  - reduction on max. obstacles for singles to 7 obstacles
  - weighting of the obstacles – lesser obstacles but increases penalty points well supported at the forum
  - cooldown: to take this out of the formal competition, just a obligation to present the horses after the marathon
- Alternative scoring: extensive discussions in the driving & sports forum, sometimes too much into detail, the weightings of the past championships were never close to either of the suggested balance / weighting. The question is if the technical committee is willing to look into ways we can make the cones a more meaningful contribution, reducing withs, etc. Needs more work to be done.
- Cones: discussions about measurements of carriages, raising the cones 4 cm etc. etc. – this will be tested in a CAI2* in the first half of 2025.
- General: summary as posted on Sports Forum website and reproduced by Hoefnet does not include key items discussed in both Driving Forum and Sports Forum.
- General – we will ask for a call with the FEI – possible discussion points:
  - Dressage draw – priority free draw (fair sport), alternative could be blocks and then draw (not an advantage for individual drivers)
  - Alternative scoring / balance
  - Safety: The Sports Forum summary goes further on recommendations for improved safety (body protectors, helmets, consequence of groom falling of in marathon etc.)
  - Stick to the outcome of the survey as that is the voice of ICDA

**FEI Sports Forum 2025 (Lausanne)**
- HSB: In general there was a huge focus on welfare. There is a massive working group for the future of dressage as a discipline.
- Rules changes: focus on changes for jumping & eventing (with Olympics).
- Driving: for other disciplines members of technical committees as wel as MOU stakeholder groups were present on the podium. For Driving the Driving Director was alone, except of section on Medical Committee findings. It would be good if in future broader driving community could be more visible as this would help a sense of alignment.

## 4. FEI Rules Revision 2025-2026

The proposals are sent in before March 1, 2025. A lot of topics were discussed in the FEI Driving Forum. An overview of the ICDA proposals can be found in the member zone on the website.

## 5. Other items discussed

**Nose band measuring device**
JA: The use of measuring device was without any issues during LOI 2025 in March. It is depending on the interpretation of the technique / the use of the device by the steward.

HSB: The revised protocol does not require mandatory testing of every turnout, leaving discretion to Stewards on show by show basis. The FEI Legal team at the Driving Forum suggested that emphasis should be on preventing (so pre competition testing).
It is very important how to use the device – smoothly was shown on the official FEI video. If problems arise, please let us know.

**Measuring heart rate directly upon arrival**
KdRO & JA strongly disagree on the measuring of the heart rate. It is not a good moment (long waiting waiting times, raised heart rate, not relevant). The suggestion is that if heart check is important, then to do it later in the stables when more meaningful conclusions can be drawn. A letter will be sent to the FEI. All ICDA committee members are asked to forward these concerns to their NFs to take action to the FEI as well.

**ICDA Yearly General Assembly**
This year the ICDA General Assembly will be held in either Beekbergen (WDC Pairs) or Le Pin (WDC Ponies) – to be confirmed as soon as possible.

Some topics to be discussed with the FEI (online meeting – to be planned April 2025):
- In harness inspection
- Measuring heart rate directly upon arrival
- Presence ICDA / Driving Committee at General Assemblee November 2025 (& next year Sports Forum)
- Cones course measurement
- (not discussed in online committee meeting, but topics for discussion with FEI on short notice: follow up on rules proposal on World Cup, working group wheel measurement cones)

## 6. NEXT ICDA COMMITTEE MEETING:

The coming period will be used for discussions with the FEI. Feedback will be given to the FEI Committee members and if requested, small working groups will be composed to address specific topics.

During CAIO Aachen there will be a drivers meeting (all ICDA committee members are invited to join as well – date & time to be confirmed).

Next online ICDA committee meeting:

**Tuesday July 8, 2025**
19:30 – 21:00 h CET

*April 24, 2025*