International Carriage Drivers Association

COMMITTEE MEETING (online)

Minutes

Date : **Monday August 8, 2025**

Present

Four-in-hand horses	: Boyd Exell (BE – president), Koos de Ronde (KdR)
Pair horses	: Jacob Arnold, (JA)
Single horses	: Kelly Bruder (KB)
Ponies	: Rosanna Walters-Symons (RWS), Maria Buchwald (MB)
U25	: Kris Rohrssen (KR)
FEI representative	: Franz Schiltz (FS)
ICDA Special Advisor	: Hugh Scott-Barrett (HSB)
ICDA Marketing & adm.	: Denise Hertroijs (DH)
ICDA General Secretary	: Marie de Ronde-Oudemans (MdRO)

Not present

Jacques Poppen (JP), Maria Henriksson (MHe), Martin Hölle (MHö), René Poensgen (RP), Bartlomej Kwiatek (BK), Elise Strauss (ES), Franck Grimonprez (FG), Lea Schmidlin (LS), Glenn Geerts (GG)

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1. Welcome

A warm welcome by BE of our 7th online meeting of the ICDA Committee.

2. Minutes meeting April 8, 2025

No remarks regarding the minutes of the previous meeting (April 8, 2025).

3. ICDA Annual General Assembly – Wednesday September 17, 2025

As previously communicated the ICDA General Assembly will be held Wednesday September 17, 2025 during the World Driving Championships for Ponies in Haras du Pin (FRA). Items which will be on the agenda of the GA:

- approval of the President's yearly report, financial report
- membership fee 2026
- a schedule of resignations (elections to commence in 2027)
- appointment of accounting auditors

The ICDA committee members are invited to send in topics to be discussed during the GA (deadline August 15, 2025 – email: office@icda-driving.com). **Action to all!!**

4. FEI Rules Revision 2025-2026

The proposals have been sent to all NFs & stakeholders. HSB gave a summary on the most important rules proposals:

- ICDA sent in more recommendations / proposals
- Still a lot of work to be done.

- **Safety**: a clear trend in athlete safety – involving picture with medical protocols (as in eventing). Clear recommendation to wear helmets on the event. Some vague parts in the text which we need to check.
- **Safety**: a groom falling off a carriage has to be checked after the finish in the marathon. The text if vague and needs to be checked.
- **In Harness First Horse Inspection to replace First Horse Inspection**: there was a willingness within the FEI to change the first horse inspection to 'in harness', but rejected by the DTC under guidance of the veterinarian committee. We are recommended to continue to push further on this topic (economic, groom welfare – note: CAI Drebkau 2025, less days of events, horse welfare).
- **Draw**: physical draw, NFs wish to retain the block system. DTC came with an alternative / compromise which ICDA is minded to support.
- **Scoring system**: ICDA submitted 2 changes on dressage (percentage) but FEI position is to have the focus on cones (course / change of width). The balance between dressage, marathon & cones – over 19 events in 2025 the outcome is that dressage is 45-50 per cent of the total results. ICDA will follow up on this.
- **Marathon**: warmup & cooldown has been diminished. Section A has been removed as a section. The question mark is if we want to push this to have more alternative. An interesting discussion about Section A, warmup arena and/or exercise route. ICDA will be make a proposal for this to have a choice.
- **Entry system**: has been simplified. Wording has been checked (especially for the WDC Ponies – no clear wording on additional individual entries), but we are happy that this is established.
- **Carriage measurement**: is to further investigate / tested. ICDA will emphasize this to the FEI and ask for the testing results of this spring (tested by Kelly). To lift the cones is a suggestion, but needs to be tested thoroughly!
- **Age limit juniors**: ICDA has not been successful to lower the age limit to 10 years.
- **Welfare**: the DTC is asking for response on the French proposal on blood issues.

! All ICDA committee members are asked to address this list of topics to their NFs (if supported by their NFs, this should be send in to the FEI before August 26) - the US NF will meet August 5!

5. Other items discussed

- **CAI Le Touquet (FRA)**: ICDA will be the proud sponsor of CAI Le Touquet to promote membership of ICDA in France.

- **Judging differences**: Judging at Munich (H1) was raised. With competition over two days there were a number of disturbing differences in marking for athetes. The Supervisory Panel is introduced 10-15 years ago. ICDA will send a letter for Judging Supervisory Panel to investigate.

6. NEXT ICDA COMMITTEE MEETING:

Next online ICDA committee meeting:

Monday September 8, 2025
19:30 – 21:00 h CET



International Carriage Drivers Association

August 8, 2025