International Carriage Drivers Association

COMMITTEE MEETING (online)

Minutes

Date	:	**Tuesday November 25, 2025 (19:30 – 21:00 h.)**
Present		
Four-in-hand horses	:	Boyd Exell (BE – president), Glenn Geerts (GG) & René Poensgen (RP)
Pair horses	:	Jacob Arnold (JA)
Single horses	:	Kelly Bruder (KB)
U25	:	Kris Rohrssen (KR), Elise Strauss (ES)
Special Advisor	:	Hugh Scott-Barrett (HSB)
General Secretary	:	Marie de Ronde-Oudemans (MdRO)
ICDA communication	:	Denise Hertroijs (DH)
Not present	:	Koos de Ronde (KdR), Franck Grimonprez (FG), Martin Hölle (MHö), Maria Henriksson (MHe), Bartlomej Kwiatek (BK), Jacques Poppen (JP), Rosanna Walters-Symons (RWS), Lea Schmidlin (LS), Maria Buchwald (MB) & Franz Schiltz (FS)

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1. Welcome

A warm welcome by BE of our 9th online meeting of the ICDA Committee.

2. General Assembly ICDA – Le Pin 2025

The GA ICDA was held September 19, 2025. The minutes & presentation were distributed together with the agenda of this meeting.
There was a quorum of ICDA members present. A discussion followed on the optimal timing of the ICDA General Assembly to encourage more members to attend. MdRO reminded committee members that the Statutes require the GA to take place at a major event.
For 2026 the GA will be held in Munich, the date & timing will be taken in consideration not to disturb the competing athletes / WDC programme.

2. For the bit on blood rules I would say "

3. Update on General Assembly FEI – Hong Kong 2025

As an ICDA representative HSB traveled to Hong Kong at his own expense and attended several meetings. The circulated note covered the topics discussed. Many of the last minute rule changes originated from the FEI. There were positive points, as well as some disappointments. ICDA must remain vigilant every year to keep track of all changes and proposals.

- The **blood rules** were a major topic of discussion, particularly relating to Jumping. Changes to the Driving Rules are this year more about greater consistency across the three phases but next year Driving will need to be careful to watch for any changes introduced in the General Regulations which may impact driving
- Regarding **helmets**, RP noted that the current rule is acceptable for him (no helmet required in dressage or warm-up). JA added that there are arguments for allowing no helmet - similar to vaulting - and that he is not aware of accidents; based on that, he believes the rule could be challenged. The elegant appearance was also mentioned. Each committee member is asked to consult their federation on its position regarding wearing a helmet or a hat in dressage and to share this with the ICDA. KB & ES are not in favor of challenging this safety regulation.
- **First Horse Inspection** before dressage: HSB was happy with the positive approach of the Veterinary Commission, a practical implementation needs to be defined and there can be a task for ICDA to provide input. This will be reviewed in the beginning of the driving season 2026.

- **Combined championships:** a good discussion of the pros and cons. The general conclusion is that introducing a combined championship will not help the sport grow, but allows a limited number of the European H1 & H2 an extra championship. ICDA will communicate to the FEI these concerns.
- **Dressage scoring system**: In Hong Kong it was presented that a working group will be established to study the recommendation (points -> percentage) and was noted that implementation could be possible in 2027. The mandate of this working group has now been broadened to review the entire scoring method, with any potential adjustments not expected before 2029. The ICDA believes that dressage scoring is an independent component and should be separated out to avoid delays. The ICDA will address this with the FEI.
  It was unanimously decided that HSB will serve as the ICDA representative in this working group.

4. Elections ICDA Committee as per 2027

The proposal schedule has been discussed and will be slightly adjusted, placing the less active drivers earlier in the rotation. The definitive schedule will be distributed in 2026.

5. Other topics to be discussed

- **ICDA website**: A new website will be launched at the beginning of 2026. The intention is to cover its costs by including advertising and similar revenue options. Committee members are asked to submit their ideas.
- **Membership fee**: As approved by the ICDA General Assembly the yearly membership fee is set to 15 euros as from 2026.
- **Naming ICDA**: As many people have difficulties in affiliating ICDA with driving, the idea is launched to talk about 'Drivers Club' or 'International Drivers Club'. This will also be promoted in socials & the ICDA website. The formal (statutes) name will remail ICDA.
- **Safety vest working group**: GG has been part of this FEI working group since September but has not received any information or invitations since then. After making inquiries, it turned out that monthly meetings are taking place. He has now been invited to the next one on 1 December. Information will be exchanged going forward.
- **Calendar / International Equestrian Organizers**: There are no H1 competitions scheduled in the six weeks prior to WDC Munich. At the moment, there is no solution. The championships take place at the end of August and beginning of September, and this needs to be discussed with the FEI. MdRO will look into whether any guidance can be provided from the Equestrian Organizers.

6. Next meeting

The next online ICDA committee meeting is scheduled:

Monday February 9, 2026
19:30 – 21:00 h CET

November 28, 2025 / MdRO