



IRISH

## HORSEWORLD

Edited by Siobhán English

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# Tattersalls to host World Cup

By Siobhán English

TATTERSALLS Ireland was this week officially confirmed as the successful applicant to host Ireland's only FEI World Cup Eventing Series qualifier in 2008.

There are just 18 qualifiers staged worldwide each year and the 2008 schedule was released by the FEI on Wednesday.

The CIC-W will run alongside the scheduled three-day event which has been allocated its usual bank holiday date from May 29 to June 1 next.

"Tattersalls is absolutely delighted to have been asked to stage the Irish World Cup qualifier in 2008," Tattersalls Ireland's Managing Director George Mernagh said.

"At the request of many riders we had been working towards running a CIC\*\*\* so a lot of work has already been done. All the ground work has been completed and it has now been left to mature for the winter."

The work on the course has been jointly carried out by designers Tommy Brennan and Hugh Lochore and builder Douglas Weymouth.

"Eventing Ireland believes that Tattersalls will run a very good event, building on its successes over the past two years," commented Eventing Ireland CEO Brian Mangan.

Event riders Paul Donovan and Niall Griffin also welcomed the news and both are confident that Tattersalls will do an excellent job. "I competed at Tattersalls this year and it was a wonderful event," Donovan commented. "The course, stabling and other facilities were excellent."

The only reservation Dono-

van has concerns the date of the event which, for those hoping to qualify for Punchestown, should it go ahead in May, may cause a problem. "If that is the case they will have to find another venue to qualify at," he commented.

The Co Meath venue will take over the running of the qualifier from Ballindenisk, where unsuitable ground conditions caused problems during this year's CIC in April.

Details of the qualifiers were confirmed during a meeting of the FEI last week which followed a meeting of the FEI Eventing Committee in September. During the latter meeting it was decided that the 2008 final would not go ahead as originally planned. Instead it was agreed to award the FEI World Cup Eventing title to the rider with most World Cup points at a major eventing competition in the spring. The next final will take place in 2009.

## Strict

It was also revealed that organisers of future World Cup qualifiers will be required to meet more strict organisational criteria.

In light of the sport's most recent fatality last week, that of event rider Eleanor Brennan, the proposal to establish a new cross-country design advisory group will be welcomed by all event organisers.

The group will have as its objective the conducting of research into safety course design and frangible devices, as well as cross-country fence building directives. Mark Phillips has been asked to chair the group.



• The mounted field of the Tara Harriers at the Dancing Tree meet in Kilcock on Thursday

Camilla Walter

## Irish Draught talks fail

By Nicholas O'Hare

A DAY long mediation attempt by barrister John McBratney in the Irish Draught dispute ended in failure on Thursday. There was substantial progress made, including agreement to introduce 'one man, one vote', but the talks broke down on the question of the membership taking the final and binding decision on the proposals. The mediator is to make contact with both sides again next week.

Both sides are bound by strict conditions of confidentiality and little information on Thursday's events was made public. It is understood, however, that the breakdown in the process occurred at a late stage in the deliberations and caused some surprise. A key element in the matter is understood to be the question of dissolving the existing limited company which governs the society and establishing a co-op in its place.

Matters which were agreed included measures to keep the membership informed of developments within the society by issuing two newsletters each year which would provide information on decisions taken by the directors. The takeover of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook from the Irish Horse Board was another matter discussed. The acceptance of the principle of 'one man, one vote' by the Governing Body and the abandonment of the delegate voting system is a major concession.

The dispute is due back in court on December 4. There is hope, however, that the mediator will be able to find a solution to the impasse in his discussions with the two sides next week.

The mediation proceedings were held in a Dublin hotel. The Governing Body was represented by George Draper, Tony Hession and Kevin Croke. The National Council was represented by Anne Loughnane, Elizabeth Deane and T.J. Gibbons. Both sides had legal advisers present.

# Riders welcome thermographic testing move

By Róisín Sheridan

THE introduction by the FEI of thermographic testing for all show jumping horses competing at an international event has been welcomed by Irish riders this week.

Following a meeting of the FEI Jumping Committee in Dubai, a protocol for thermographic and clinical examinations during CSIs/CSIOs and championships was approved.

"Anything that protects the welfare of the horse is good news for us, although I could foresee difficulties in detecting

what is injury and what is abuse," said Riders' Club chairman and international competitor Edward Doyle. "Anything that will help prevent an animal being abused will just help our sport," he added.

Under the protocol, directly after the first horse inspection or after the first competition, all four legs of all horses will be checked with a thermographic camera by an FEI appointed veterinary surgeon. Horses will then undergo a brief examination carried out by two veterinary surgeons appointed by the FEI specifically for this task.

Thermography is a non-invasive type of infrared imaging. Sensors in the camera convert infrared radiation (heat) emitted from the surface of the skin into electrical impulses that are shown on the image as areas of colour.

White represents the hottest temperature and is found on areas where there is major blood flow, including parts of the face and the coronary bands. From there, categories range from red, yellow, green, blue and finally black, which represents the coldest areas.

Any substance or action that

may cause a horse's legs to become more sensitive, and therefore more careful when jumping, can be detected.

This should eliminate the possibility of a horse being tampered with and is a significant step-up from the old-fashioned 'boot check' which is regularly carried out at shows.

Other decisions taken at the meeting in relation to show jumping include an increase in the maximum number of competitors in a five-star Grand Prix from 40 to 50. The minimum prize-money for a three-star event has been increased to

150,000 Swiss Francs.

Meanwhile, new safety recommendations have been introduced for prize-giving ceremonies during international dressage shows. This includes a proposal by the International Dressage Riders Club (IDRC) that only the top three placed riders should be in the line-up.

In other changes to international dressage, a Nations Cup formula was proposed to promote more team competitions. It was proposed that the Nations Cup should be the most important competition at an event and carry the highest prize

money to attract more teams and to promote team spirit. The new formula will be tested and evaluated by CDIO organisers in 2008.

The main item concerning endurance riding brought to the attention of the FEI in Dubai was the progress made by the Endurance Task Force, established to carry out a full review of the discipline.

The Task Force's mandate is to proactively gather ideas and suggestions and propose changes to the sport, keeping horse welfare issues as a primary concern.