

FEI REGIONAL GROUP VII

A PRESENTATION

GROUP VII

Present Status UAE

1.1.1

Since 1993, 170 competition rides including 2 World Championships, 8 HH The Presidents Cup events & many prestige rides have been held in the Emirates.

UAE has 3 dedicated Endurance Centres and a fourth has opened recently.

Present Status UAE contd...

1.1.2

These include the showpiece of the Emirates, **Dubai Endurance City** at Seih Assalem, host to 2 World Championships, the quaint Emirates International Endurance Village at **Al Wathba**, Abu Dhabi home of the famous Presidents Cup (160km), **Bou Theib** Endurance Village at Al Khatem, Abu Dhabi where during the three-day long Festival of Endurance in January a very successful CEI.3* (3 X 80) 240km ride was held. And there is **Al Asayl Endurance Centre** at Sweihan, Abu Dhabi host of the first-ever Ladies Championship (in three rounds) this season.

Present Status UAE contd...

1.1.3

Al Wathba has its own well-tried Timing System. The UAE NF also has developed and successfully deployed a new sophisticated System in the 3-Round Ladies Championship and in qualification events including one with 200 starters.

The UAE Endurance Season runs from November till March. Competitions are held every Saturday with a break around the New Year.

UAE supports endurance worldwide.

Present Status Bahrain

1.2.1

Modern Endurance began in 2001 in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Royal Bahrain Equestrian & Endurance Federation has hosted several quality events including the annual feature HM The Kings Cup 4 times and the World Junior & Young Riders Championship in 2005.

Present Status Bahrain contd...

1.2.2

In all 75 competition rides have been held at the permanent Bahrain International Endurance Village which is picturesquely located by the sea, at Sakhir. Endurance in Bahrain is held from October till May in the following year.

Bahrain uses its own sophisticated computerised Endurance Timing System.

Bahrain supports endurance worldwide.

Present Status Qatar

1.3

Qatar has held Endurance rides for several years. In 2006 the Endurance Village at Mesaieed was enlarged to host the Asian Endurance competition.

Qatar participates in major international competitions.

Present Status Jordan

1.4

In Jordan endurance goes back a long way. Major competitions are held in the natural splendour of Wadi Rum.

Jordan participates in major international competitions.

Present Status

- 1.5 **Kuwait** until recently has held one to three rides each year.
- 1.6 **Saudi Arabia & Oman** have good horses and Endurance is coming up in these countries. Saudi Arabia & Oman are represented in international competitions.
- 1.7 **Lebanon** has been holding endurance rides for several years.
- 1.8 **Endurance** is popular in Syria. A number of rides are held each year.

Present Status

- 1.9 **E**gypt continues to hold rides regularly in the desert around Cairo.
- 1.10 **T**here has been endurance riding in Algeria & Tunisia since the 80's. Algeria shall host a 100km FEI ride in April followed by a 90km competition in July 2007 during the African Games.
- 1.11 **E**ndurance has to take root in the other countries of the Group.

Interaction within Group VII

- 2.1 **T**here is close interaction among Bahrain, the Emirates, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia & Syria including movement of horses and sharing of officials.
- 2.2 **A**lgeria & Tunisia have some interaction.
- 2.3 **T**he Emirates have supported Endurance competitions in Egypt & Tunisia.
- 2.4 **M**ost countries are interested in developing Endurance.

Input Necessary

- 3.1 **D**evelopment of resources including financial support.
- 3.2 **B**asic infrastructure for endurance needs to be set up in a majority of countries. Internal & Group coordination is required.
- 3.3 **T**raining of officials & organisers is essential.
- 3.4 **E**ndurance Rules, the GR's & VR's must be made more meaningful and precise. Officials need to be aware of the exact requirement in the spirit of the Rule. They should also know what is not permissible.

Input Necessary contd...

- 3.5 **FEI** must help by holding Endurance TD/ Judge/ Vet/ Steward Courses where they are most needed. FEI should also set a minimum standard for Coaches. Course Directors should be taken from the field and must have a long & successful record.
- 3.6 **FEI** should encourage an annual Group/ Regional Championship by rotation.

In Focus

4.1

"**Formula Finish**" for Championships. What we understand is that it shall lead to an early termination of the ride.

This is a totally new concept. Complete details of the proposed change must be sent to Regional Groups & National Federations for evaluation & consideration.

In Focus contd...

4.2

"**Star Category**" for Riders. Experienced riders should not have to submit to the general qualification criteria for Championships subject to their having ridden in competitive Endurance in the previous (say) 24 months.

In Focus contd...

4.3

"**A**ppointment of Officials" for major competitions. Inexcusable lapses were witnessed at championships & important rides in the not-so-distant past. Obviously persons entrusted with the job failed to do it.

TD's must be held accountable and like any other official the TD must either perform or leave.

In Focus contd...

- 4.4 "**U**nfair Practices." Two areas of concern are Time Keeping & Weight Control. Any irregularity or mismanagement can only lead to an unfair result. Very strict control is required when recording the Vet In Time especially and at all weight checks.
- 4.5 "**F**inal Examination of Horses." It is recommended that whenever two of the three voting slips read PASS and the third reads RETROT, it should be declared a PASS.
- 4.6 "**D**elay in Reports" of Ride Test Samples. There is inexplicable delay in the receipt of Test Results. We suggest that the information, at least the Negative Reports must be sent to NF's within three working days of FEI having received them.

In Focus contd...

4.7 “**World Championship Distance**”. While it is true that 160km (100 miles) in one day is the supreme test of a World Champion it is also true that there are “horses for distances.”

We should consider introduction of distance categories within a championship event. A meaningful resolution of this question may also help resolve difficulties experienced in holding Championships in places with extreme climate.

In Focus contd...

4.8

“Security of Horses.” Horses are now permitted to be kept in stables other than the stables arranged by the OC. In fairness the others should be given the same opportunity at the responsibility of the respective horse connections.

In Focus contd...

4.9 **T**o be accepted as a high profile modern sport Endurance needs to develop in all its aspects.

4.10 **S**ponsors & Advertisers must see profit & potential in Endurance. There is work to be done.

In Focus contd...

- 4.11 **The Ride Centre/Village** should be very attractive. The Centre should be near to as many of the ride routes as possible which should be accessible to the public so that the competition can be viewed closely by more people.
- 4.12 **National Federations & FEI** should place endurance results & related news on easy-to-access websites. Competitions & rewards for the public should be devised especially to improve awareness & participation in endurance.
- 4.13 **At the Ride Centre** constant ride updates & expert comments should be available through announcements & on TV screens, where possible.

Thank You!

The Chairman

& Members of FEI Group VII

wish the entire Endurance Fraternity

“A Very Successful Forum.

Your Wisdom today shall Shape the
Future of the Sport.”