



---

# IMGA APRIL NEWSLETTER



---

**EUROPEAN TEAM AND  
INDIVIDUAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS JULY  
12-20 DENMARK**



---

**WORLD TEAM  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
AUGUST 3-7 FRANCE**

---

**WORLD INDIVIDUAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
AUGUST 18-24 WALES**

---

**WORLD PAIRS  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
SEPTEMBER 17-19  
ENGLAND**

---

**NATIONS  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
SEPTEMBER 27-  
OCTOBER 3  
KENTUCKY USA**

## **Welcome to our April Newsletter**

As the Mounted Games season draws to a close in the Southern Hemisphere, our thoughts turn to the 2021 season in the North.

We are all hoping for an International season and our countries hosting this year's Championships are working hard to provide us with memorable and safe competitions.

Our thanks go to them for all their preparations.



# Tack Top Tip

## Bits and teeth

As long as the bit you are using fits the pony, and is working for you with communication with your pony, and is legal, then everything is fine, but...

Make sure at the beginning of the season that you have had your pony's teeth done, so there are no sharp points or rough edges that can interfere with the comfort of the bit in the pony's mouth. By having your pony's teeth done there also shouldn't be any sharp edges that could cut up the inside of the cheeks from the pressure of a noseband.

Your bit should sit in your pony's mouth so the corners of its lips have a couple of wrinkles showing, if you gently pull the bit down towards the pony's incisors, (that's the front teeth), the wrinkles should disappear. Having the bit too high pushes the pony's lips into the first molars and when you pull on the reins they can bite the inside of their lips, which causes bruising and sometimes bleeding which is never good. If your bit is a little large you can use rubber or foam bit guards to take up some of the extra but a bit that's too small needs to be replaced. Always check that your bit has no rough edges or chewed places on it, your pony will appreciate your care.



by Margaret Welsby





# World Individuals



World Individuals entries open the 7th of April and will be unlimited entries up to the 7th of June, when entries will only be added if heats allow.

## TOP TIP FROM A TRAINER

Practise like you expect to compete. If you're practising slow, safe and steady, you can't expect to be able to ride your cleanest, fastest races in competition.

Push your limits and experiment with techniques at home. Different techniques suit different riders and ponies. Video your training sessions and analyse them afterwards. This will help you to pick up where you are losing time, which areas your pony needs improvements, and where you can improve your own techniques.

Get to know your pony- on and off the games field. This is your first team-mate. Use different disciplines to make schooling fun. For example:

- dressage for formal schooling
- jumping for fitness and agility

-polocrosse for speed, explosiveness, stopping and turning

-trail/stock work for desensitization and responsiveness

And remember to keep it fun for rider and pony!



by Megan Frost





## Rule Books:

Rule Books are now available to purchase from the website- <https://www.mounted-games.org/imga/games/rules/orders/index.html>

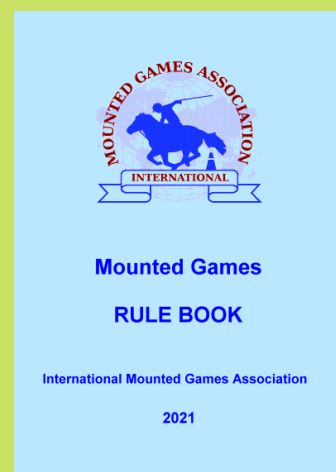
## TOP TIP FROM A REFEREE



Dieter says

Die Basis für einen gerechten Ablauf eines jeden Spiels ist ein fairer Start. Wenn die Fahne hoch geht, reitet an die Startline. Wenn alle gleichzeitig ankommen und kurz stoppen, kann der Schiedsrichter die Fahne senken und alle Reiter haben die gleichen Startbedingungen. Daher sollte beim Start jeder Reiter seine Aufmerksamkeit auf die Aktionen des Schiedsrichters und auch auf seine Mitreiter richten.

The running of a fair game is based on the start. When the flag goes up, riders should walk to the start line. If everyone arrives at the same time and stops briefly, the referee can lower the flag and all riders have the same starting conditions. Therefore, at the start, every rider should pay attention to the actions of the referee and also to his fellow riders





# Tribute to Kate Gutry



Kate was a bright bubbly 17yo who was tragically taken from us in a car accident on the 15th of February 2021. Kate who excelled at school was in her last year. She was a highly valued team member of Canterbury MGA and is sadly missed by us all.

Kate had been selected as reserve rider in the U17 team for NZ last year to go to Scotland and also in the Nations Cup to travel to the USA, unfortunately neither of these teams had been able to travel.

Kate was loved by all in NZMGA for her infectious smile and can do attitude!

Kate's motto was never give up and for that she was an inspiration to us all!

The following words were written by Colin Carson as a tribute to Kate.

We have lost another rider from our games family far too young!

Kate Gutry from New Zealand passed over the rainbow bridge.

Kate was due to go to her first World Championships as the reserve rider for NZ U17 team in Scotland last year. I first met her at South Island camp a few years back. She seemed to ride quite well but I was not sure if she really had the bug for games. However over the next few years she showed she had and though starting later than most of her opponents and going into one of the highest level of u17 rider groups NZ had ever known. She got herself much fitter and took on a tough pony but one with potential! She was not afraid to ask for help and made great use of the instruction given and was soon biting at the heels of the top riders in her age group and I was expecting her to have even more success as she went into the open division. I have coached riders with more natural ability but Kate made up for it with work ethic, intelligence and serious determination!

I believe it was the team aspect of the sport that really motivated her. She loved being part of a group and making life fun. There was a mischievous streak to her which made her even more magnetic as a person. I did not know her long but I know she will be much missed in the mounted games group and by all that knew her. Again I am reminded of the saying, "only the good die young!" for it seems to ring true so often.

My thoughts and prayers are with Kate's family and close friends. Be comforted by the fact Kate was so full of life and crammed so much in during her short time with us, yes be sad but Kate was a happy light in this world and I know I will remember her with a smile when I think of her. I think that is what she would like!





# NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA



The Victorian Branch had its ups and downs with running events in March. We were all set to attend an event on the 12/13 of March, horses washed, truck packed and at 1PM on the Friday the government announced a snap lock down for 5 days. Many ponies were confused, why did we get all dressed up and put back in the paddock, and many riders were disappointed. Luckily the lock down was lifted and we could get out to a competition on 27/28. Saturday was a pairs competition with 30 pairs and Sunday was teams with 10 teams participating.

For some of our new riders it was their first teams competition, as a teams competition had not been held since May 2019. Saturday was a cool overcast 20c and provided beautiful riding conditions. Sunday got a bit warmer heading towards 30c but riders and ponies took it all in their stride.

## Results - Pairs

Open: Alister & Simon

Over 18: Alysha & Lachie

Under 18: Lily & Jay

Under 15: Ryan & Seren

Under 12: Emily & Sigrid

Novice: Deacon & Mason



MGA Victoria ran their State Pairs Championships over the weekend of March 20-21

## Results:

Open: Ryan Seini & Chris Patton

25 & Over: Renae McKeever & Alysha Somers

U18: Gemma Venderydt & Jack Bissicks

U15: Seren McKeever & Ryan Bissicks

U12: Sigrid Black & Emily Oliver



# News From New Zealand



New Zealand are the first country to celebrate the end of their season, being one of the only countries to successfully hold all their championships with spectators due to their countries efforts against Corona Virus. The national champions are:

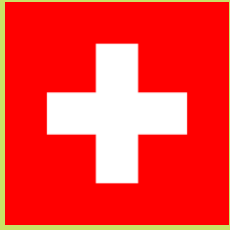
**Open Individual Champion**- Brooke Johnston

**Open Pairs Champions**- Rebecca Bengé & Olivia Brooks

**Open Team Champions**- Danielle Adamson, Olivia Brooks, Rebecca Bengé, Sophie Daly & Lucy Marshall



And a special mention to Sophie Daley (U17) and Paul Johnstone (veterans) for becoming triple crown champions, winning the Individuals, Pairs and Team champions in their age groups.



# Interview with Rider: Marino Kammermann



- Where do you live?

I live in Switzerland near Lucerne which is quite close to the centre of Switzerland.

- What do you do?

I am a car mechanic working for Ford.

- When did you first become involved in Mounted Games?

It was back in 2009 as my riding instructor asked me if I would like to try something new.

I instantly fell in love with it.

- What do you do now in Mounted Games?

I am trying to get better and better everytime. Also I'm working on getting faster and more precise.

- Where have you been abroad with Mounted Games?

I was in France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Denmark, England, Wales, Ireland and new Zealand. The Mounted Games Family is just awesome out there!

- What is your favourite venue?

Oh that is easy! Aston le Walls. For me the best survace ever.

- What do you like most about Mounted Games?

I don't have something specific I like most, its the whole sport that makes it so special. I can't say that's the best thing about it, it's everything.

- What is your favourite race? and why?

Bank Race. Lots of skill and high precision. Things I really like about Mounted Games.

- What advice would you give to a new Games rider?

Do it the right way from the first day with a good coach. You can save yourself years of bad experience by just learning it the right way.

- Tell us about your all-time favourite horse.

For me it's my horse, Levante. I've got him since he is 4 years old, when he only knew how to walk under the rider. So everything he does today, we learned together and that makes the bond between us very special and amazingly strong.

- What other interests do you have apart from Mounted Games?

I'm totally into cars, even though apart from riding there's not much time left for my other interests.



# SPOTLIGHT ON IMGA OFFICIALS

Hello, I'm Keith Martin, the Vice-Chairman of IMGA. That means that I'm Chris' backup and I help him out as much as possible. I also manage the IMGA website (<http://www.mounted-games.org/index.html>), mailing lists, and the Rule Book shop.

I'm originally from the English Midlands, but I've lived in Belgium and Luxembourg, and now I live in SW France. I'm an IT professional, although I've now been retired for quite a while. I'm fluent in English and French, and can manage in Flemish/Dutch.

I first encountered Mounted Games in the late 1980's, when I was part of MGA Luxembourg – as an organiser, not a rider ! Our first World Championship was in Northern Ireland in 1989, and since those early days international Mounted Games has grown and developed enormously and now IMGA has 24 members from all over the world (<http://www.mounted-games.org/imga/organisation/memberslist.html>), and we're still growing.

I was elected as the first Chairman of IMGA when it was set up in its current form in 2003, and served until 2016 and then again temporarily for a few months in 2019. So I've been involved in Mounted Games, one way or another, for a very long time. I've driven a horse box all over Europe with the Luxembourg team, and travelled all over the world to attend World Championships and IMGA Annual Meetings. I've met people and made many good friends. So you can see that Mounted Games has been a big part of my life for a very long time, and it still is.

Since Chris took over I've helped during what has turned out to be a very difficult time for us all. The restrictions imposed because of COVID caused the cancellation of championships for Mounted Games and many other international sports. We hope that 2021 will be a bit easier, but there will certainly still be plenty of work to do.

If you have questions or problems then you can contact me via the IMGA website, or at [imga.vicechair@mounted-games.org](mailto:imga.vicechair@mounted-games.org), and I'll do my best to help you.

My best wishes to everyone involved with IMGA.

