



FEI Eventing Officials Designers Seminar Hartpury May 1st – 3rd

2006 saw the inaugural cross country design course for the **International Academy of Cross Country Design and Build**. Affectionately known as **AoD** and supported by **British Eventing, Hartpury College, Mitsubishi Badminton Horse Trials** and **The Bill Thomson Bursary**.

*Bill
Thomson
Bursary*

Great excitement surrounded the International Design course on 1st – 3rd May 2006. The Course Directors were Rudiger Schwarz CD for WEG 2006 Aachen, and Mike Tucker CD for WEG 2002 Jerez – both well respected figures in the eventing world. Delegates gathered on Monday morning for an informal discussion with Rudiger Schwarz and Chris Bartle on the Philosophy of Course Design. This session included video's from Chris Bartle's collection of riders mistakes. The group settled well with lots of ideas, by the time they mounted the afternoon bus for the course walk around the Advanced course at Withington there was a tremendous buzz of anticipation of what was in store. The course at Withington gave the group time to look at distances in the combinations and for some of the foreign delegates a close look for the first time of the frangible pins. The evening was rounded off with a lecture from Dr Ellen Singer on Common eventing injuries and detrimental fences an eye opener for all concerned.

On day two Rudiger was joined by Mike Tucker and Ian Stark for the course walk session at Badminton. The opportunity for the "course delegates" to see the Badminton Cross-country as presented to the Ground Jury for their first walk round was special and very much appreciated. A designers dream to walk Badminton supported by three very special mentors, memories that the delegates can cherish, with pearls of wisdom absorbed to be used to further the sport across Europe and possibly beyond. This session provided a great opportunity for excellent discussion between all those involved, whatever their experience. The discussions that followed fused ideas and really set the delegates thinking. That together with a short period setting out combinations in groups on an interesting piece of ground at Badminton, provided plenty for lively debate both in the evening and next morning, this is a vital part of the FEI courses while allowing ability to be recognised it also gives directors a chance of looking into the delegates thinking patterns.



The course dinner at Hartpury on Tuesday evening lapsed into eventing stories with Tommy Brennan keeping delegates up until the early hours. Which some may have regretted, when the written tests began on the Wednesday morning. Hartpury College provided excellent facilities throughout but their all-weather arena and show jumps were put to very good use by Rudiger in the final session on the show jumping phase.

In all, the modern task and philosophy of cross-country design was well aired and emphasised the need for a good team attitude between Ground Jury, T.D., Show Jumping and Cross-country Designer.

The AoD is truly fortunate to have such great support, the Designers course that runs over Badminton's week I am sure will become the place to be in the future. The delegates were so privileged to share the directors enthusiasm drive and understanding of the sport.



The International Academy of Cross Country Design and Build
www.aod.org.uk



Delegates at the lake at Badminton



Delegates on the steps at Hartpury