

THAT was a Meeting

The weather has not been good for riding so, like most, if you can't actually do it you talk about it. If you weren't in St. Louis at the Moonrise Hotel on February 20th, you missed one of the best days talking about eventing we've had locally for some time.

The day started off with all three of the Area IV group leaders, Bernard Morauw (Young Riders), Kathy Kerns (Adult Riders) and Elise Vandover (Organizers) providing updates & their future plans. Then Ron Smith, one of the founders of Start Box, showed us how we can easily organize & schedule shows plus, for Organizers, provide all the wrap-up paperwork in the correct formats now required by USEF & USEA.

After a break for refreshments provided by Queeny Park Equestrian Events, John Staples gave a great talk on the Speed Study and the many aspects of our sport it throws light on. This, and an interesting presentation by the Charles Owen representative, was the perfect lead into a Safety Forum where Frangible Fences was the subject of Dr. Timothy Holekamp's talk.

The final discussion was where we go from here in Area IV after a brief review of where we are today – mainly around Chicago it seems. The day finished with a great Oriental-themed dinner at the Awards Banquet. Much thanks are due to Jill Wagenknecht and the Queeny Park ladies for organizing a great venue and the Moonrise Hotel for great service. I survived my first meeting as Area Chair thanks to a great team. The only slightly worrying note was my fortune cookie - "The time is right to take up a new collection or hobby" - hope it's not prophetic.

John Clarke