

**Who am I?**

Laura van de Graaf  
the Netherlands  
L3 judge jumping  
Age 55

**Why do I run for election?**

I like communities and working in a team of people with the same goals and passion. I see the position of board member of the IJOC as a great challenge and an honor!

In everyday life, I work as an Event Manager at a multinational in the hairdressing industry. This is quite different from the 'horse world'. Although there are some similarities, working in these two distinct environments gives me a wide perspective on things.

The two board members leaving the board have a lot of experience on organizing and by replacing one of them I think I can contribute to the IJOC by helping to organize Refresher Seminars and General Assemblies, like I already did when the ISJC visited Amsterdam in 2010 as well as the upcoming one.

I have been secretary general of the biggest hairdressing association in the Netherlands for almost 20 years now, so I think I may say I have already a lot of managerial experience.

In equestrian sports, I am member of the Jumping Forum, a committee advising the Dutch NF KNHS on matters such as jumping rules and regulations.

I have been an International Judge L3 for about 10 years now, with quite some experience; I have worked together with members of our club on many occasions.

**About the IJOC**

I believe the most important roles of the IJOC are building up knowledge and providing the opportunity for members to build up a network of people around the world, getting to know other judges and stewards, to improve cooperation at shows in your own country and especially abroad. It's so much easier and more pleasant if you already know somebody when going to unfamiliar places. I'm fortunate that I can say that I've build up friendships with people in many countries, because we meet at IJOC meetings every year.

Both internal and external visibility of the club is key. Social Media plays an important role, and I may say I'm an expert.

The IJOC is moving forward, on a path of better communication by and for the members and to strengthen the cooperation with the FEI. I would like to help and be a part of this movement.

**My competences**

I am enthusiastic, always looking for chances and possibilities for innovation, and like to stimulate others to do so as well.

I am a good listener, I like to debate, but I also have the courage to stand for my opinion. I am result-oriented, like to connect people and am a team player.

I think of myself as empathetic and easily approachable.

**Conclusion**

Hopefully my profile matches the one you as IJOC members are looking for as your new board member.

If so, please vote for me and I promise to represent our club as well as possible!