

Briefing Note of the 38th Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland held on 21st July 201 at the Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

The Chairman welcomed Comdt. Tom Freyne to the Board who was replacing Lt Col Gerry O’Gorman as representative for the Army Equitation School and Riding for the Disabled Association of Ireland. The Chairman acknowledged Lt Col Gerry O’Gorman for his valuable contribution as a founder board member of Horse Sport Ireland.

Minutes of the 37th Board Meeting and Matters Arising:

The minutes of the 37th Board meeting were approved. Arising from these minutes Harold McGahern acknowledged the Director of Finance for his assistance to an applicant of the LEADER Rural Development Grant who had requested some advice from HSI on progressing her application. The Director of Finance had met with the applicant following an issue raised at the previous board meeting.

Harold McGahern followed up on comments in the previous minutes regarding the classification/registration policy in the Irish Horse Register. He said he was strongly of the view that a more open system should apply.

Board Correspondence:

The CEO said HSI had been approached by the Mounted Games Association of Ireland (MGA Ireland) regarding affiliation to HSI. An initial meeting with MGA Ireland had been held and a formal letter of application for affiliation had been received following this meeting. A decision on this affiliation was not for today’s meeting but he wished to flag the application for decision at a later date.

Belle Balding said she would like to discuss this application with the Irish Pony Club Committee in advance of the Board making a final decision on the matter.

The Director of Finance said that a meeting had also been held with The Irish Quarter House Association Limited (IQHA), currently affiliated to the American Quarter House Association, who had submitted a letter of application for affiliation to the HSI Reining & Western Section.

Finance Report:

The Director of Finance presented the Horse Sport Ireland management accounts for the year to date. These accounts were included in the meeting pack. There were no queries on the accounts.

Breeding Sub Board Report:

The Director of Breeding & Programmes presented the Breeding Sub Board report included in the meeting pack. This included an update on the mare demo evenings held in July, mare

inspection dates provisionally selected for Autumn 2011 and the HSI/Teagasc regional breeder meetings scheduled for October 2011. Also included was an update on the Studbook Series, the ISA Showing Series and on foal registration. In relation to foal registration, the Director of Breeding & Programmes referred to the 2010 Breeding Statistics appended to the report which would be included in the HSI Breeder Magazine summer/autumn edition. Discussion on these statistics followed and some issues were raised in relation to the drop in the number of foals by Thoroughbred sires in particular.

Harold McGahern requested a forum to discuss the issues arising from the Statistics which he felt were related to his earlier points. The Chairman said he would speak with the Chairman of the Breeding Sub-Board in relation to the matter.

Sport Sub Board Report/National Medication & Anti-Doping Programme:

The CEO referred back to a letter circulated at the previous Board meeting regarding the proposed HSI National Anti-Doping and Medication Control Programme which was sent to Affiliate Organisations on the 30th May. Affiliate Organisations had been asked to reply indicating if they wished to be part of this programme by the 30th July. Draft heads of Equine Anti-Doping Rules for inclusion as an Appendix to the Horse Sport Ireland rule book had now been prepared by Beauchamps Solicitors and were included in this meeting pack for review. The CEO invited Board members to review the document and provide feedback.

SJI Insurance Update:

Damian Woods of Insurance Risk Projects joined the meeting at this point to report the findings from his independent review of SJI's insurance policy. He verbally presented these findings in which he identified a number of gaps in the policy. Subject to Board approval, he said this report would be finalised and made available to the SJI for their executive meeting on the following week.

Damien Woods said that both he and the Director of Finance had already met with the SJI Chairman and Ronan Corrigan of SJI to verbally present the findings from the report.

The Board agreed that the report should be finalised and presented to the SJI board in time for their Executive the following week. After discussion it was agreed it should be available to the media on request after it was presented at the SJI Executive meeting the following Thursday.

Proposal to Government re. prize money:

The CEO circulated a draft submission to the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine regarding a proposal for a prize money fund allocation from the government for investment in the sport horse sector which Horse Sport Ireland would administer. The Board welcomed this proposal.

A.O.B:

The Chairman recognised the recent success of the U14 Children on Horses Show Jumping Team who won a gold medal at the European Championships in Comporta. He acknowledged the team, their parents, Team Manager Comdt. John Ledingham and the High Performance committee.

There was a discussion about travelling reserves for underage teams not being entitled to a medal at Championships. It was agreed that further representations should be made to the FEI again to change this rule.

Paul Duffy raised an issue with the high cost of road tax on horse boxes which now had to be paid for 12 months of the year and suggested making a proposal to the Minister for Transport to allow private owners to tax horse boxes for a limited time period in the year. The Chairman agreed to this concept and invited Paul to send in some details on the matter so that it could be followed up.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Thursday 29th Sept. Time to be confirmed.

ENDS