

## **Briefing Note for the 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

### **Horse Sport Ireland Budget 2009**

Mark Bolger reported that the HSI Finance Committee had been circulated with, and thoroughly examined, the financial forecast for the year. It was reported that savings were being made across all categories of expenditure; however, additional savings would be required over the next four months to meet the budget result for the year.

### **Appointment of Officials**

The Rules Committee has been reviewing Horse Sport Ireland processes for appointing FEI officials as set out in the FEI General Regulations. In particular, it examined the system of appointment of the more senior FEI officials such as Contact Veterinarian and Steward General.

The committee proposes that key appointments should be made by an **interview panel** as follows:

- The Chair of the Rules Committee who would chair the panel.
- The overall Steward General for Ireland.
- The Chair of the relevant affiliate discipline or its nominee.
- Two members of the Rules Committee.
- All those who are currently eligible for the post would be invited to apply and these would then be interviewed by the Panel who would decide on the nominee.

Any such appointments would be for a period of five years at which point the post would be re-advertised.

The CEO clarified that the position of overall Steward General for Ireland was currently held by Lt. Col. Ronnie MacMahon.

The Rules Committee's proposal was unanimously agreed.

### **Sport N.I. Application**

On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009 HSI was invited to apply to Sport N.I. to be formally registered as the National Governing Body for Equestrian Sport in Northern Ireland. Mark Bolger circulated a copy of the application form submitted to Sport N.I. during August 2009.

### **Horse Sport Ireland Rule Book**

Gary Rice, Horse Sport Ireland's legal adviser, joined the meeting. The CEO reported that the latest version of the rules was revised following comments by affiliates and a further review by the Rules Committee. There was a lengthy discussion about the draft rules and a number of alterations were agreed. These amendments will be made and the rules will be presented at the next Board meeting for approval. Gary Rice explained that he was happy to receive further comments on the rules from Board members. He asked that, if possible, these would be in writing and received before Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October so that he could consider them before preparing the final draft for agreement at the next Board meeting.

## **FEI Restructuring**

A presentation on the new FEI structure was circulated. This document had been the basis for two recent FEI meetings with European Federations at Windsor and in Antwerp.

The Board agreed that it would be left to the Chairman and CEO to decide on Ireland's position on this matter at the FEI General Assembly (GA) in Copenhagen in November.

It was reported that the European Equestrian Federations had formed a European Equestrian Forum to discuss issues of mutual concern.

In relation to other GA matters it was proposed that Horse Sport Ireland would make two proposals to the FEI for consideration: that medals should be awarded to travelling and competing reserve riders in under-age competitions and that all riders and grooms should be required to wear their helmets, while mounted, on the grounds of international shows.

## **AOB**

### **Congratulations**

John Jude Doyle congratulated Luke Cummins (Kilkenny College) on winning the Best Individual Rider in the Inter-school Championship at Hickstead 2009. He thanked the Board of HSI for the continued support to the Inter-school Equestrian Programme.

The CEO congratulated the Pony European Show Jumping Team on its recent outstanding success at the European Pony Championships in Moorsele, Belgium. In particular, Kellie Allen who won the Individual Gold Medal and Emma O'Dwyer, Michael Duffy, Kellie Allen and Emily Turkington who won the Team Silver Medal. Alex Buller competed as an individual and finished 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Board also acknowledged the contribution of Horse Sport Ireland's Pony Show Jumping High Performance Coach Ian Fearon, High Performance Co-ordinator Heather Coyle and the SJI nominee to the Pony High Performance Committee, Katy Saunders.

The CEO also acknowledged the contribution SJI made to this success through its training programmes and the pony premier series.

Also at the European Eventing Pony Championships in Moorsele, Joseph O'Brien won the European Individual Bronze Medal.

Cameron Hanley, who missed winning a medal by just .65 of a point at the European Individual Show Jumping Championships at Windsor, England, was also singled out for praise. The Irish team finished 7<sup>th</sup> of 17 competing nations in the Team Event.

### **Equine Piroplasmiasis**

Michael Duignan and Ronan Corrigan asked about the reported Incidence of Equine Piroplasmiasis in Ireland. Ronan Corrigan asked that SJI be kept informed. The CEO extended an invitation to the SJI Chairman to attend a specially convened meeting which was due to take place the next day in the Department's laboratory complex in Backweston where the Department planned to brief stakeholders on the matter.

### Horse Welfare

Some members raised concerns about horse welfare as the winter approaches. The Chairman reported that he had met with the Irish Horse Welfare Trust that morning and that he planned to raise the matter with the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

### Army Equitation School

Some members raised the issue of the future of the Army Equitation School on foot of the recommendations in the so-called An Bord Snip Report. It was reported that the Chairman had written to the Minister for Defence, Mr Willie O'Dea T.D., stressing the importance of the School and seeking a meeting with him to discuss it.

### The late Stuart Mangan

The Board asked that Horse Sport Ireland would send a note of condolence to Brian and Una Mangan and the family of the late Stuart Mangan.

### Next meeting

The next meeting was set for Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

**ENDS**

**This is a briefing note prepared by the CEO at the request of the Board. It has not been approved by the Board of Horse Sport Ireland.**