

Briefing Note for the 27th Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland held on 17th December 2009

Minutes of the 26th Board Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 26th Board meeting were approved.

Management Accounts

The Finance Director presented the November Management accounts.

Breeding Sub Board Report

Laura Whelan gave a comprehensive presentation on the sponsorship allocations by the Breeding Sub Board in 2009.

Sport Sub Board Report

The Finance Director presented financial tables in relation to the finance budgeting of the Sports Department of Horse Sport Ireland. He also presented a document setting out budget headings which would be deliberated on by the Sport Sub Board. These headings are International Hosting, Affiliate Sports Grants and Shared Affiliate Schemes. The budget for these headings will be set by the Finance Committee and they will be deliberated on by the Sport Sub Board that will then make recommendations to the Board of Horse Sport Ireland.

27.5 FEI General Assembly Report

At the Extraordinary General Assembly on the Tuesday of the General Assembly (GA) week, the proposal to restructure the FEI, the main part of which was the replacement of the bureau with a seven person board' was defeated by 49 votes to 48. A two thirds majority in favour would have been required to pass the proposal.

Ireland had placed two items on the Agenda for discussion: the awarding of medals to travelling reserves in underage competition and the compulsory wearing of headgear while mounted at international shows.

Both of these proposals were approved by Groups I and II. However, the President of the FEI asked that a feasibility study be carried out on the cost of extra medals and asked that the Riders Club would consider the headgear issue.

Horse Sport Ireland will continue to pursue these matters with the FEI.

The "Progressive List"

This proposed banned substances list had been circulated to National Federations on the Friday before the GA. It proposed to allow the use of certain Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) in competition up to certain thresholds.

This list was adopted by the General Assembly by 53 votes to 48.

Since the GA there has been huge opposition to the adoption of this list. In response to this the Bureau of the FEI decided to delay its implementation until April 5th, 2010.

Subsequent to this the President asked National Federations to consider approving the 'October 20th list' which was circulated to National Federations on that date. Under this list NSAIDs are prohibited in

competition. The issue of the use of NSAIDs would be placed on the agenda for the 2010 General Assembly.

Ireland supported the proposal to implement the 'October 20th list' from April 5th of next year. The result of the vote was 38 votes to 22.

The other main point was that Brian Mangan was elected as Chairman of the FEI Audit and Compliance Committee which gives him a non-voting seat at the Bureau.

Bernie Brennan commended the Chairman and the CEO on their performance at the General Assembly which had been commented on by many other international delegates.

Equestrian Skillnet Presentation

Cathy Cooper gave a presentation on Equestrian Skillnet. The Skillnet had been very successful during 2008 and 2009 with 792 people trained and 4479 training days provided. All targets had been met.

Additional funding was provided for the overall Skillnets programme in the 2010 Government's budget and Equestrian Skillnet will now be able to apply for this. Bridging support is also expected to be available.

The Board complimented Ms Cooper on her presentation and approved that Horse Sport Ireland should continue to be the promoter of the programme and facilitate an application for funding for 2010

Showjumping High Performance Document

This document was approved early in 2009. Subsequently, some issues arose and the document was referred back to the Senior Show Jumping Management Committee. Some changes had been suggested on foot of this. The updated draft was circulated and will be on the Agenda for approval at the next HSI Board meeting.

Horse Welfare

The CEO reported on a difficult case in Kilkenny which resulted in some horses being sent for humane destruction and some for re-homing through the Irish Horse Welfare Trust.

It was suggested that HSI could include the issue of horse welfare in the circular to Irish Horse Board members stressing it's importance and asking people to be supportive of their neighbours if they were experiencing any difficulties. The Board stressed the importance of this issue.

Horse Sport Ireland Rule Book

Gary Rice drew the Board's attention to the requirement in the new rules, which had been approved at the earlier EGM, to establish a disciplinary panel of nine members to hear any cases that might arise under the new rules. He pointed out that three of the panel members have to be from a legal background. He stressed that all panel members should be eminent individuals of the highest calibre and who should be immune from vested interests. He also clarified that it would not be appropriate for Board members to serve on the panel.

Affiliates were asked to nominate any suitable candidates to the Company Secretary before Friday January 15th 2010.

Charles Powell formally thanked the Rules Committee and Gary Rice for their work on the rules.

AOB

Jim Lilley raised the issue of Child Protection Training Programmes being made available online. He agreed to provide contact details of a service provider and recommended that HSI explore the matter.

Michael Duignan raised the issue of Teagasc training overlapping with Horse Sport Ireland's training. The CEO will organise a meeting with Teagasc to ensure enhanced co-operation and reduce any possible duplication. He also reported on the untimely death of Gerry Scully R.I.P. who had the direct line management of the Teagasc Equine specialists.

The Chairman thanked the members for what he considered to be a very constructive meeting and extended Christmas greetings to the Board members and their families. The date for the next meeting was set for **Thursday, February 11th 2010 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.