

Briefing Note of the 31st Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland held on 8th July 2010

Apologies were received from Tristan Kingston, John Jude Doyle, Jessica Harrington, Alice Mernagh, and Lt. Col. Gerry O’Gorman. The Chairman welcomed Norman Storey who replaced Larry O’Neill as the Para Equestrian Ireland’s nominee to the board.

The minutes of the 30th meeting were approved.

Management Accounts and Draft 2009 audited accounts

The draft audited 2009 accounts having been circulated to the Directors at the previous Board meeting were proposed for approval. No queries arose thereon. The draft audited accounts were approved by the Board as final and recommended for adoption by the Members at the AGM to be held later in the year.

The Finance Director circulated the April and May 2010 Management Accounts. No queries arose.

Breeding Sub Board Report

The Director of Breeding & Programmes gave a report on the meeting of the Breeding Sub Board which had taken place the morning of 8th July. The Director of Breeding & Programmes confirmed that the Mare inspections would be carried out on a thirty two county basis.

Sport Sub Board Report

The CEO gave an outline of the most recent meeting of the sport sub board. He reported that HSI had met with Coillte to discuss matters in relation to bridle paths and riding in forests in general. It was also reported that the Equestrian Skillnet had been successful in being allocated a grant of €90,000 for the skillnet programme for 2010. Some additional funding allocations as recommended by the Sub Board were also approved.

Olympic Council of Ireland Agreement

It was reported that a number of meetings had taken place between Horse Sport Ireland and the Olympic Council of Ireland. As a result of this an agreement had been reached between the two organisations on protocols to reduce, in so far as possible, the risk of a repeat of incidents at the last two Olympic Games where horses ridden by Irish riders had tested positive for prohibited substances. A draft agreement incorporating these new protocols was circulated to the Board for approval. It is proposed that this agreement would be included as an Appendix to the standard agreement which must be signed by each National Governing Body with the OCI prior to each Olympic Games.

The board approved the document.

Appointment of FEI Officials

The HSI Rules Committee proposed an adjustment to the process whereby HSI recommends officials to be appointed as FEI officials. From now prospective officials will send their applications to Horse Sport Ireland who will then circulate them with a covering letter to the relevant affiliate. The affiliate will then respond to Horse Sport Ireland within a six week period recommending the appointment or setting out reasons why they would not recommend it. This reply would then be considered by the Rules Committee. The proposal of the HSI Rules Committee was accepted by the Board.

World Equestrian Games update

The CEO provided an update report to the Board on the preparations for the World Equestrian Games. The Board was asked to note that prices for horse flights had increased by 17% since the last board meeting. Accordingly, further measures to reduce costs had been implemented with reductions in the numbers travelling being the main area for cost reductions.

Horse Sport Ireland has made a submission to the Irish Sports Council for a once off additional allocation for the World Equestrian Games as the risk of a substantial deficit in funding remains as outlined at the previous board meeting.

Para Equestrian

A new selection policy for Para Equestrian athletes was circulated and approved. Norman Storey expressed his gratitude to Horse Sport Ireland for the support they had given Para equestrian sport.

A.O.B.

Studbooks Licence

The CEO informed the Board that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had granted HSI the licence to maintain the Irish Horse Register incorporating the Irish Sport Horse and Irish Draught Studbooks for the next three years.

Millstreet

The matter of an unauthorised show jumping show scheduled to take place in Millstreet in August was raised by the Chairman, who advised the Board that he was suggesting to Show Jumping Ireland that Horse Sport Ireland could appoint an outside person to act as a mediator in this dispute.

Board members were of the view that if it was too late for a mediator, that Horse Sport Ireland could not condone unaffiliated shows as a similar situation could be faced by other affiliates.

The Chairman thanked the members for what he considered to be a very constructive meeting and the date for the next meeting was confirmed for **Thursday 2nd September 2010 at 2pm.**