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**Briefing Note of the 34th Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland held on 9<sup>th</sup> December  
2010**

**Board Correspondence**

A letter was circulated from Lieutenant General Sean McCann of the Office of the Chief of Staff addressed to Chairman Joe Walsh acknowledging the recent successful launch of the book “*Ambassadors on Horseback*” in McKee Barracks and the working relationship between Horse Sport Ireland and the Army Equitation School. Lt. Col Gerry O’Gorman thanked the Chairman and Horse Sport Ireland for their participation in the launch of this book.

**Management Accounts**

The management accounts for the month of October were circulated. These accounts had been reviewed by the finance committee earlier that day. The Finance Director invited any questions on these accounts. No questions were raised at the meeting.

**Breeding Sub Board Report**

The Director of Breeding & Programmes presented the Breeding Sub Board Report which was circulated to the board. A list of the 2010 Horse Sport Ireland Irish Sport Horse and Irish Draught Breeder Awards were also circulated. The issue of a recent study by the University of Limerick entitled ‘*An analysis of Conformation and Performance Variables in Potential Three Day Event Horses in Ireland*’ was raised. This report had recently been launched by the RDS who had commissioned the Study. A number of Board members expressed dissatisfaction with the way the study had been presented by the RDS and particularly the erroneous statement by the RDS that the study had called for the urgent establishment of a separate Eventing Studbook in Ireland.

**Sport Sub Board Update**

The CEO presented the Sport Sub Board Report which was circulated to the board. He also commented that eight of the timetabled meetings between affiliate organisations and Horse Sport Ireland had taken place so far and the feedback from these meetings had been generally positive.

**Rural Development Grants**

The Chairman reported that following extensive discussions with the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs a joint booklet on grants available to the sport horse sector under the Rural Development Programme had been produced by the Department and Horse Sport Ireland.

Some **€425 million** is available under this programme which runs until 2013.

'*The Guide to Axes 3 & 4 of the Rural Development Programme: Grants Support for Ancillary Services to the Sport Horse Sector*' was circulated. The Chairman invited the Finance Director to give an overview of this publication. The Finance Director highlighted, in particular, section 3.4 of the publication which gave examples of the types of projects which could be funded.

The Chairman clarified that it was Horse Sport Ireland's role to promote and provide guidance on the programme but that allocation decisions would be made by the local LEADER Group.

John Reid raised a concern on behalf of Eventing Ireland that any cross country course projects supported under the Rural Development Programme should be built with the advice of a technical advisor, particularly if these courses were intended for running Eventing Ireland competitions.

The Chairman acknowledged the role Teagasc had played in assisting with this matter.

### **FEI General Assembly**

Charles Powell gave an overview of the FEI General Assembly in Taipei held on the 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

Charles Powell reported that the new banned substance list had been approved and that Princess Haya had been re-elected as president for a second four year term.

He said a number of issues were discussed including the financial burden of staging the World Equestrian Games. A publication from the FEI with a summary of the main decisions from the FEI General Assembly was circulated.

The Chairman thanked Charles Powell for representing Horse Sport Ireland at this assembly.

### **A.O.B**

The Chairman thanked the members for this meeting and the date for the next meeting was confirmed for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011.