

**Briefing Note of the 39<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland held on**  
**6<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

The Chairman welcomed Liam Murphy to the Board who was replacing Tommy Dixon as a Showjumping Ireland nominee.

**Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and Matters Arising:**

The minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Board meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

**Board Correspondence:**

An application letter from Endurance Ireland to become a formal Section of Horse Sport Ireland was included in the meeting pack. The board noted that the Irish Long Distance Riding Association was already affiliated to Horse Sport Ireland and were the designated affiliate for Endurance riding. It was agreed that the board should encourage Endurance Ireland to engage with ILDRA to resolve their differences.

**Finance Report:**

The Director of Finance presented the Horse Sport Ireland August year to date management accounts. A copy of the management accounts were included in the meeting pack. He noted that the accounts were subject to the review of the finance committee.

The Director of Finance also gave an update on the negotiations with the NI Horse Board on agreeing a new operational relationship for the future. A series of meetings had taken place and a document had been drafted outlining the principles for a new affiliation model to HSI.

The agreed principles were that the NIHB would affiliate to HSI in the same way that the IHB currently does. In return the NIHB members would receive the same benefits as IHB members and the NIHB would pay the same rates as IHB members for the various breeding services.

Following the agreement of the principles with the NIHB a detailed document setting out the financial arrangements had also been produced following further meetings.

This document was currently with the NI Horse Board for its consideration and would be brought to the HSI Board and Breeding Sub Board for review.

**Breeding Sub Board Report:**

The Director of Breeding & Programmes presented the Breeding Sub Board Report included in the meeting pack. With regards to CapallOir, she thanked and acknowledged SJI, Eventing Ireland and A.I.R.C for facilitating the link from CapallOir to results on their Website. She said the launch of CapallOir on September 5<sup>th</sup> had been a great success and feedback on the database so far was very positive.

The Director of Breeding & Programmes also outlined amendments to the Irish Sport Horse Studbook Rules agreed at the recent meeting of the Breeding Sub Board on September 14<sup>th</sup>. These had been forwarded to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. These amendments were approved by the Board.

### **Sports Sub Board Update:**

The CEO presented the Sports Sub Board Report which was included in the meeting pack.

He drew attention to a note at the end of the report regarding developing a guide to safer riding, leading and driving horses on the road. HSI had held a preliminary meeting with the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and were planning a follow up meeting shortly to develop this guide.

Belle Balding said the Irish Pony Club had a document which may be of help to developing this guide which she could forward to HSI.

### **National Medication & Anti-Doping Programme Rules:**

Draft 4 of the Equine Anti-Doping and Equine Controlled Medication Rules (EAD/ECM) and a supplementary document outlining the general rules amendments were included in the meeting pack for Board review.

Company legal advisor Gary Rice of Beauchamps Solicitors joined the meeting for this agenda item to give an overview of the rules and answered questions from a number of Board members who sought clarification on some points.

There were concerns raised that the legal language of the rules would be very difficult for many riders to interpret. The CEO said a pamphlet summarising the main points of the rules would be made available when the rules were published.

The Board agreed with the general direction of the rules and it was agreed that subject to amendments following today's meeting and further input from the SJI and the National Head FEI Veterinarian in Ireland, Dermot Forde, the rules could go forward for ratification at an EGM of Horse Sport Ireland.

### **HSI Code of Ethics for Children in Sport:**

The Draft HSI Code of Ethics for Children in Sport which comprised of four individual working guideline documents for Parents, Paid Personnel, Volunteer Personnel and Leaders authorised to Travel were included in the meeting pack for review and feedback.

### **Appointment of Garda Vetting Referral Committee:**

The CEO said that Triona Connors was the HSI point of contact for Garda Vetting. However in the event that a form was returned which contained convictions then a referral committee needed to be in place to decide if such convictions should disbar the applicant from the role. The CEO, Belle Balding and Alice Mernagh were nominated to make up this committee and this was approved by the board.

**AOB:**

**Review of the Senior Showjumping High Performance Programme:**

The Chairman said that following the results at the European Championships in Madrid and the failure to qualify a Showjumping team for the Olympic Games, HSI were proposing to engage a consultant to carry out an independent review of the Senior Showjumping High Performance Programme. He circulated a document outlining the terms of reference, how the review would be conducted and the timeline for this review. HSI would be asking the selected consultant to have the report ready for the first Board meeting of 2012. It would also be presented to the Irish Sports Council. After some discussion the document was approved by the board.

**Date for next meeting:**

The next Board meeting was scheduled for **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 11.00** and would be followed by the EGM. A final version of the Equine Anti-Doping and Equine Controlled Medication Rules would be sent to the Board in advance to this date.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the Board for what he considered to be a very constructive meeting.

ENDS