

## **Briefing Note of the 41<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland held on**

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012**

The Chairman welcomed Gerard McCloskey who was replacing James Kernan as SJI nominee and informed the Board that Tony Hurley was replacing Anne Waistell as SJI nominee. He also welcomed Lt. Col. Gerry O’Gorman as the new Para Equestrian Ireland (PEI) nominee.

The Chairman paid tribute to the valuable contributions of James Kernan and Anne Waistell as SJI representatives and also to Michael Duignan and Tristan Kingston as representatives of the Irish Horse Board.

### **Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and Matters Arising**

Harold McGahern asked that a reference in the last minutes in relation to the Medication and Anti Doping Programme be amended to say that the RDS unequivocally supported an agreed drugs testing programme. This was agreed and the minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Board meeting were then approved.

The Chairman advised the Board that HSI’s submission to the Government regarding a prize money fund for the Sport Horse Sector was still under consideration by the government. He raised the point that the Department of Agriculture had commenced a review of certain aspects of the horse racing industry including the Horse and Greyhound Fund. It was agreed that HSI should make a submission to the review seeking that the Sport Horse Sector be given an allocation from the fund commensurate with the equestrian sector’s relative economic contribution.

### **Board Correspondence**

The CEO said a letter had been received from the Connemara Breeders Pony Society in which they had made a case for a share in the Department of Agriculture Grant in Aid to Horse Sport Ireland. The Board agreed the Finance Committee would deal with this issue in the first instance.

### **Management Accounts**

The Finance Director presented a summary finance update report on the 2011 management accounts and the 2012 budget which was included in the meeting pack.

## **Breeding Sub Board Report**

The Director of Breeding & Programmes presented the Breeding Sub Board Report and invited any questions. The minutes of the WBFSH General Assembly held in October 2011 were circulated.

## **National Medication and Anti-Doping Programme Rules**

The CEO reported that since version 7 of the Equine Anti-Doping and Equine Controlled Medication Rules (EAD/ECM) had been circulated to the Board, a meeting had been held with the SJI Executive to consider the Rules. This was a very constructive meeting and while the SJI Executive were in favour of the rules being adopted they identified some issues which they asked be brought back to the HSI Rules Committee for consideration.

The HSI Rules Committee had met subsequently to take the feedback from SJI into consideration and changes were made to the draft rules as a result. The CEO thanked SJI for their constructive input.

The CEO said that after the Rules Committee had met the RDS requested a meeting to discuss some concerns with the Rules. This meeting had been held on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Consequently the final version of the rules, with changes tracked, had only been circulated on the day before the Board meeting.

The CEO went through the tracked changes to the Rules. He gave some background to what was involved in an ETUE (Equine Therapeutic Use Exemption). The inclusion of the ETUE in the Rules was a key requirement from the SJI Executive.

The Board considered the details of the tracked changes.

All changes were approved with one additional amendment in article 8.4.1 of the ECM Rules where it was agreed that this should be changed to four rather than eight years i.e. ‘first time offenders (namely, no record of any EAD or ECM Rule violations within the last four (4) years...’

There was discussion on what the constitution of a disciplinary panel should be in the event of a disciplinary case. The CEO said the make-up of a disciplinary panel could be discussed in more detail at a later Board meeting.

It was also identified that the support of stewarding at events would be critical to the successful implementation of the programme. The CEO said that HSI would be meeting with Affiliates to discuss how this would work for stewards.

Subject to the foregoing amendment to article 8.4.1, the Rules were then approved unanimously by the Board members for adoption at the EGM.

The Chairman thanked all those involved in the development of the Rules. He said that it was a seminal decision to implement such a programme. He noted that the Rules were scheduled to come into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

### **Olympic Selection Criteria**

The CEO gave an update on the position of Show Jumping, Eventing and Dressage riders in relation to qualifying for the Olympic Games and gave an overview of the draft Olympic timelines and selection criteria documents for Show Jumping and Eventing included in the meeting pack.

He noted that the selection criteria for Show Jumping still needed some work and was subject to the review of the Team Manager and the Senior Show Jumping HP Committee. The Board was asked to note that the Eventing document had already been approved by the Eventing HP Committee.

He invited Board members to give feedback on the selection criteria which he hoped to have finalised by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board were in favour of the general direction of both documents and were satisfied for the Executive and the Senior Show Jumping HP Committee to finalise the document.

The CEO drew the Board's attention to an agreement with the OCI which had been signed off by the HSI Board in 2010. He circulated the term of reference for the monitoring committee which was part of the agreement. The OCI had nominated their honorary secretary Dermot Sherlock and CEO Stephen Martin to the group. It had been agreed that Des Leadon of the Irish Equine Centre would act as the independent veterinary advisor. It was agreed that the CEO and Team Veterinarian Marcus Swail should represent HSI on the group.

The CEO congratulated the Para Equestrian Dressage Team on finishing 8<sup>th</sup> in the World Rankings and qualifying for the Olympics Games and acknowledged the valuable work of previous Chefs d'Equipe for the Para Equestrian Team Avril O'Bryne and Naomi Donoghue as well as Chef d'Equipe Dara Kearney. He also recognised the work of Equestrian Sport Co-ordinator Triona Connors and the support of Paralympics Ireland and Para Equestrian Ireland.

### **The Sia Group Review of the Show Jumping High Performance Programme**

Jane Williams, Managing Director of The Sia Group, joined the Board to present a summary of the draft findings from her independent review of the Senior Show Jumping High Performance Programme and invited and answered questions from Board members on the findings. It was noted that this was an independent report. It was agreed that the report should be made public. Board members requested that they receive a copy before it appeared in the public domain.

## **Presentation on the Horse Sport Sector in Ireland**

Elizabeth Lane from the Department of Agriculture joined the Board to make a presentation on the Horse Sector in Ireland and also invited and answered questions from Board members. The Chairman thanked Elizabeth for the report and said he would be looking forward to the final report which would be available to the Board when it was finalised.

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

The Director of Breeding & Programmes invited Board members to attend the 'HSI Level 3 SJ Coach Presentation of Certificates' which would take place in the RDS on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 12pm. An invite was circulated to all Board members.

The Finance Director circulated forms in relation to the disclosure of interests under the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995. He said Board members need only return the forms to him if they had any 'interest' to declare which could materially influence them in relation to the performance of their function as directors of Horse Sport Ireland.

The date for the next Board meeting was provisionally scheduled for **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am**

ENDS