

Briefing Note of the 42nd Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland held on 4th April 2012

Present: Joe Walsh (Chairman) Neil Henry, John Jude Doyle, Harold McGahern, Helen Kelly, Comdt. Brian MacSweeney, James Beecher, Georgia Stubington, Taylor Vard, Tony Hurley, Paul Duffy, Liam Murphy, Samuel Smyth, David Abbott, Lt.Col Gerry O’Gorman, Robert McCormick, Gerard McCloskey

Apologies: Charles Powell, Jessica Harrington

In Attendance: Mark Bolger (Director of Finance & Operations)
Alison Corbally (Director of Breeding & Programmes)
Louise Donnelly (Administrative Assistant)

The Chairman welcomed the recently appointed Board members, Georgia Stubington who replaces John Reid as an Eventing Ireland nominee, Neil Henry and Helen Kelly who replace Michael Duignan and Tristan Kingtson as Irish Horse Board nominees and Taylor Vard who replaces Ronan Corrigan as a SJI nominee.

Minutes of the 41st Board Meeting and Matters Arising:

The draft minutes of the 41st Board meeting were approved.

Board Correspondence:

There was no recent Board Correspondence to present to the Board.

Finance Report:

The Director of Finance presented the 2012 draft budget included in the meeting pack which he said was a working document under continual review by the Finance Committee.

Appended to the report was a table illustrating the allocation from the Horse and Greyhound Fund to Horse Racing Ireland for the information of Board members. The Chairman invited any questions or observations on the budget.

The Board was asked to note that the Chief Executive had met with the Chief Executive of Irish Thoroughbred Marketing (ITM) who had substantial inward buyer resources to discuss how HSI and ITM could work together on an inward buyer programme. The Board was also asked to note that the Chief Executive would be attending the upcoming Trade Mission to China which would be a further opportunity for promoting the Irish Sport Horse abroad.

Breeding Sub Board Report:

The Director of Breeding & Programmes presented the Breeding Sub Board Report which was included in the meeting pack. The Chairman invited questions.

The proposed Studbook rule change detailed in item 4 of the Breeding Sub Board Report was discussed and approved by the Board i.e.

“Thoroughbred stallions that have not been previously classified in the Irish Horse Register that have at least 5 progeny that are winners under the rules of racing can be classified as Approved upon application and submission of an ITBA wind soundness certificate or equivalent submitted by a Veterinary Surgeon on the HSI veterinary panel.”

Sport Sub Board Report:

The Director of Finance presented the Sport Sub Board Report which was included in the meeting pack and invited questions. He acknowledged the Affiliates who had contributed to the Equestrian Rider & Road Safety Guide currently under development.

Appended to the Sports Sub Board Report was the breakdown of the Affiliate Sports Grants for 2012 recommended by the Sports Sub Board which included the breakdown of the Home International Hosting budget for 2012 which had followed discussions with the Irish Sports Council.

National Medication and Anti-Doping Update:

A copy of the Equine Anti-Doping and Equine Controlled Medication Rules (EAD/ECM) approved at the 41st Board meeting were included in the meeting pack. Also included was the advertisement for the HSI National Anti-Doping Seminars which took place 26th – 29th March and the advertisement seeking applications for a panel of testing veterinarians as part of the Anti-Doping and Medication Control Programme.

The Director of Finance said that while there had been a strong representation of officials from Affiliates at the seminars, the attendance from riders was poor and disappointing. A number of Board members commented on the seminars which they said were very informative.

Olympic Selection Criteria:

The finalised HSI Olympic Games Selection Criteria for Eventing & Showjumping which had been presented in draft format at the 41st Board meeting were included in the meeting pack. The Finance Director said the show jumping criteria which had been identified as needing further work at the last Board meeting was finalised at a Senior Showjumping High Performance Committee meeting on Feb 22nd with Team Manager Robert Splaine, the Senior Showjumping High Performance Committee and Legal Advisor Gary Rice of Beauchamps. There were no significant changes to the last draft of the Eventing selection criteria.

The Paralympics Ireland Para Equestrian Olympic Selection Criteria was also included in the meeting pack. Lt. Col. Gerry O’Gorman recognised the recent success of the Para Equestrian team at Deauville.

Dept of Agriculture Registration of Premises:

The Department of Agriculture press release on Feb 16th regarding the new requirement for the registration of all horse location premises and the FAQ published were included in the meeting pack.

The Director of Finance said Horse Sport Ireland had received a lot of queries from concerned persons since the new order had been released by the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture had agreed to meet with HSI to discuss. The Chief Executive and a number of Affiliate representatives had met with Department Officials on April 3rd to raise their concerns and to highlight some of the complexities and practicalities of the registration of premises in relation to shows, hunts etc.

On the back of this meeting the Department of Agriculture had committed to review the FAQ taking into consideration and clarifying on the issues raised.

The Chairman commented that the objective of the Department of Agriculture in introducing this new order was to enable them to track animals in the event of a disease outbreak. He said the meeting with the Department had been very constructive and HSI would continue to work with them to help streamline and simplify the process for registration.

Equestrian Showcase at Punchestown:

The Director of Finance mentioned the upcoming HSI Equestrian Showcase at Punchestown's Irish National Hunt Festival on Tuesday 24th April and the special HSI ticket offer to all members of HSI Affiliate Organisations. Details of the offer and the responses so far from Affiliates who had committed to participating in the show case were included in the meeting pack.

AOB:

The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for **Thursday 14th June at 11.00am** and would be followed by the AGM.

ENDS