

**Briefing Note of the 45<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) held on  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2012**

The Chairman welcomed Paddy Joe Foy and Pat McCarthy as nominees of the Irish Horse Board to the HSI Board of Directors.

**Minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and Matters Arising:**

The minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> Board meeting were approved and adopted.

With regards item 44.7 of the 44<sup>th</sup> Board meeting minutes, the CEO said following consultation with the Showjumping and Eventing High Performance selection panels, there was agreement that in the interest of transparency and fairness, that an open recruitment process should be held for the positions of the Eventing and Showjumping High Performance Managers. Both these contracts are due to expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2012.

The Board agreed with the recommendation of the panels, that an open recruitment process should be held for both positions.

On behalf of the Northern Ireland Horse Board, (NIHB), Samuel Smyth asked the Board to note that negotiations between HSI and the NIHB were progressing well.

**Board Correspondence:**

The CEO brought to the Board's attention correspondence from Anthony Lawlor TD, seeking support from the organisation in endorsing the forthcoming Children's Referendum. It was the unanimous view of the Board that it would not be appropriate for HSI to endorse any side in a referendum campaign. However the organisation would have no issue in encouraging people to vote.

**Finance Report:**

The Director of Finance presented the HSI year to date management accounts.

**Breeding Sub Board Report:**

The Director of Breeding & Programmes presented the Breeding Sub Board Report. In addition, she circulated a discussion document to the Board with a proposed initiative from the Breeding Sub Board to address the issue of the increased numbers of foals/horses being registered without recorded breeding in recent years i.e.

*“All affiliate bodies for sport in FEI disciplines confine their competitions to horse that have a sire and dam recorded in their identification document. This would apply to all horses born in 2013 or later.”*

The Board were in support of this proposal. The CEO asked Board members to encourage their Affiliates to support this important initiative for the Sport Horse sector.

### **Sport Sub Board Report:**

The CEO presented the Sport Sub Board report. He also distributed a graph highlighting the steady increase in European Championship medals for underage teams since 2005.

It was noted that the recent meeting with the Department of Agriculture regarding the registration of premises had been worthwhile but that there were still issues to be resolved.

A concern was raised by a Board member regarding the risk of contamination from pregnant mares being brought into Ireland without screening. The Director of Breeding and Programmes said that this was covered in the HSI veterinary code of conduct.

### **National Sports Campus Presentation & License Agreement for Approval:**

Barry O'Brien, Chief Executive of the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA), joined the meeting to make a presentation on the development of the Equestrian facilities at the National Sports Campus in Abbotstown. Following the presentation Mr O'Brien answered further questions from the Board on the facilities and clarified the financial implications. He reiterated that there would be no cost to HSI or Pentathlon Ireland in the capital development and any financial risks would be borne by NSCDA. When completed, the facilities would be available to Affiliate organisations to hire at commercially competitive rates. The Chairman thanked Mr O'Brien for this comprehensive presentation.

The Draft Licence Agreement between NSCDA and HSI, which had been circulated to the Board prior to the Board meeting, was approved.

### **Sport Sector Funding Proposal:**

The CEO presented a draft proposal for submission to the Government in which Horse Sport Ireland was seeking an additional €5m for the Sport Horse sector from the Horse & Greyhound Fund. The Board supported the submission of a funding proposal and were in agreement that additional funding was greatly needed to support the sector.

The CEO asked Board members to review the document and submit any feedback or recommendations to him by lunchtime the following day so the document could be finalised within the next few days.

### **Just Sport Ireland – National Rules:**

The CEO proposed that 'Just Sport Ireland', an independent body established by the Federation for Irish Sport would be a more appropriate and cost efficient final appeals mechanism in HSI's National Rules than the Court for Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne. He proposed that the HSI rules be amended to insert Just Sport Ireland instead of the Court for Arbitration for Sport. This proposal was approved by the Board and will be brought forward at the next EGM or AGM.

### **Ruling of the HSI Disciplinary Committee – Alleged violation of the Controlled Medication Rules:**

The ruling of the HSI Disciplinary Committee on the matter of an alleged violation of the equine controlled medication rules concerning Harry Marshall and Derryinver Luxury Cruise, was included in the meeting packs. The Director of Finance answered questions on the ruling. The ruling was to be made available on the HSI website later that day.

### **Showjumping HP Review Document:**

The Sia Group Report to HSI regarding the review of the Showjumping High Performance Programme was included in the meeting pack for review. The report was to be made available on the HSI Website later that day.

### **Term of Office of the HSI Chairman:**

Regarding the term of office of the HSI Chairman, the Chairman proposed that the following wording, for amendment in the articles of association of the company, should be sent to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr Leo Varadkar, for approval as follows:-

#### *SPECIAL RESOLUTION*

1. *That the Articles of Association of the Company be amended by the insertion of the following Articles 33 (xi) and 33 (xii) as follows:*

*33 (xi) The term of office of the Chairman shall be four years from the date of the appointment.*

*33 (xii) The Chairman shall be eligible to serve a maximum of two years*

The Board approved the submission of this wording to Minister Varadkar. Following the Minister's feedback the matter would then be brought back to the Board along with a resolution to call an EGM to amend Horse Sport Ireland's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

### **Selling Irish Horses Abroad:**

The CEO referred to the recent advertisement for expressions of interest from individuals who sell or facilitate the sale of Irish horse or ponies abroad, for inclusion on a HSI list of sellers/suppliers of Irish horses or ponies abroad. Applicants would be expected to comply with a HSI code of conduct. Those who had submitted expressions of interest would be consulted with before this code of conduct was finalised.

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

The next Board meeting was provisionally scheduled for **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am**

**ENDS**