

**Briefing Note of the 47th Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) held on
31st January 2013**

Minutes of the 46th Board Meeting and Matters Arising:

Harold McGahern asked for it to be recorded that he was not the exclusive author of the Inter Schools proposal mentioned in the minutes of the 46th Board meeting. The minutes of the 46th Board meeting were then approved and adopted.

Board Correspondence:

The Director of Finance brought to the attention of the Board correspondence received from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leo Varadkar TD dated 30th January 2013. The letter confirmed that Minister Varadkar having consulted with the Minister of State Michael Ring and with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Simon Coveney, had nominated Professor Patrick Wall to replace Mr Joe Walsh as Director and Chairman of Horse Sport Ireland, effective from February 6th. The Minister thanked the outgoing Chairman Mr Joe Walsh for his exemplary work as Chairman of Horse Sport Ireland in his letter.

The Chairman formally proposed the appointment of Professor Patrick Wall as a Director and as the Chairman of Horse Sport Ireland Limited. The nomination was ratified by the Board. The Chairman said he was very pleased with the new appointment and expressed his thanks to all of the current and previous Board members for their involvement and co-operation over the years.

Finance Report:

The Finance Director presented a summary of the Horse Sport Ireland Draft 2012 Management Accounts. He explained that the accounts were subject to change and that when the accounts were finalised following the audit they would be presented in detail to the Board for its consideration.

Breeding Report:

The Director of Breeding & Programmes presented the Breeding Sub Board Report.

The Chairman said he was very pleased that the Northern Ireland Horse Board had affiliated to Horse Sport Ireland on January 1st 2013 and thanked Sam Smyth for his role in facilitating this Affiliation.

Harold McGahern proposed a 50% reduction fee for non pedigree identity documents. The Director of Breeding said she would take this point to the Breeding Sub Board for discussion but felt that such a move would be detrimental to the industry as it would encourage breeders to register horses without recorded pedigree.

Mr McGahern also proposed that Horse Sport Ireland should again offer reduced prices for registering older horses. The Director of Breeding & Programmes said such initiatives were already being considered for Spring 2013 and would be discussed at the Breeding Sub Board.

Liam Murphy praised the Young Breeder Programme and suggested that the Programme could link up with young athletes regionally. The CEO said he would bring this proposal to the Sport Sub Board for discussion.

Sport Sub Board Report:

The Chief Executive presented the Sport Sub Board report. He flagged that the proposed Sport Sub Board alternative method for allocating sport grant funding by HSI to affiliates based on a base amount plus a per capita amount based on membership was likely to cause some controversy as there would be winners and losers.

FEI General Regulations – Unsanctioned Events:

The CEO reported on a significant rule change which had occurred at the FEI General Assembly.

From January 1st 2013 a new FEI Rule came into force regarding penalties for riders and Officials who compete in ‘unsanctioned events’. An unsanctioned event is an event which is not approved by either, the FEI (international events) or a National Federation (National Event). The penalty for competing or officiating at an ‘unsanctioned event’ is exclusion from competing or officiating at a ‘sanctioned events’ for six months.

At present Horse Sport Ireland as the IRL NF does not have any formal policy on what constitutes a ‘sanctioned event’. In order to be able to implement the FEI rule we need to introduce a policy on sanctioning events.

This matter was currently being considered by the Rules committee and a draft document would be produced shortly for discussion with Affiliates.

Senior Eventing & Senior Showjumping High Performance Managers – Update:

Mark O’Donnell of Amrop Strategis joined the meeting to give an update on the recruitment of the Senior Eventing and Senior Showjumping High Performance Managers (HPM).

There were questions from the Board on why the appointment of the Eventing and Showjumping managers had not taken place simultaneously. Mr O’Donnell clarified that the interview panel made a unanimous decision on the Eventing HPM after the 1st round of interviews as the preferred candidate Mr. Nick Turner stood out from the other candidates involved in the process.

However a 2nd round of interviewing had been deemed necessary for the show jumping position and to accommodate availability, the earliest date interviews could be conducted was February 11th. In the interim, one candidate had withdrawn from the recruitment process, leaving 3 candidates.

Following discussion by the Board, it was agreed that a meeting of the Board to ratify the chosen candidate would be called following the conclusion of the interview process for the Showjumping High Performance Manager.

Irish Horse TV:

Len Regan from Irish Horse TV joined the meeting to make a presentation to the Board on the new Web TV channel for Horse Sport Ireland and Horse Racing Ireland. Board members were invited to the launch of Irish Horse TV on February 5th at the KClub in Straffan.

Abbotstown Update:

The Director of Finance gave an update on the progress of the Equestrian facilities at Abbotstown. Draft site plans of the proposed training facilities were attached to the report. Charles Powell highlighted the importance of including an arena that would accommodate the dimensions required for Carriage Driving High Performance training. The Director of Finance invited comment from the Board members by February 8th on the site plans.

It was proposed that the next Board meeting should take place at Abbotstown to give Board members the opportunity to view the facilities and give feedback. The Chief Executive said he would bring this proposal to the new Chairman.

Team Ireland Equestrian – Official Suppliers/Sponsorship

The Director of Finance announced that following negotiations with feed supplier companies Glanbia/Gain Horse Feeds were now confirmed as the new official feed supplier to Team Ireland Equestrian and that Glanbia would also sponsor the underage teams in showjumping and eventing.

The Director of Finance thanked Bluegrass Horse Feeds for their support over the past few years as official feed supplier to Team Ireland Equestrian. The Chief Executive thanked the Director of Finance for his work in concluding the deal with Glanbia. He also acknowledged Bluegrass Horse Feeds for their support over the past few years during their time as official feed suppliers to Team Ireland Equestrian.

The Board welcome the support of Glanbia.

Irish Horse Gateway

The Chief Executive made a presentation on the Irish Horse Gateway initiative, a proposed on line portal for the sale of Irish horses abroad.

A meeting had taken place on December 11th with sellers of Irish horses and ponies who had responded to the expression of interest advert.

The Chief Executive said that further details would be brought to the HSI Board for review and HSI would keep the Board updated on the development of the project.

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