

**Briefing Note of the 49th Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) held on
26th March 2013**

Minutes of the 47th & 48th Board Meeting and Matters Arising:

The minutes of the 47th & 48th Board meetings were approved. There were no matters arising.

Board Correspondence:

There was no Board correspondence for discussion with the Board.

Finance Report:

The Finance Director presented the 2013 draft budget. The Finance Director asked the Board to note that the budget figures did not account for any unexpected legal costs in 2013. He also flagged that a provisional High Performance budget would need to go forward to the Irish Sports Council in the coming weeks to receive funding.

Breeding Sub Board Report:

The Director of Breeding & Programmes presented the Breeding Sub Board report and also gave the provisional dates for mare inspections. The 2013 Stallion Inspection results were attached to the report.

Tony Hurley asked if it would be possible to have the 2014 showjumping series dates by December 1st 2013 for the Showjumping Ireland 2014 Calendar. The Director of Breeding & Programmes said provisional dates could be provided by December 1st but would have to be subject to budget.

Sport Sub Board Report:

The Board approved the Affiliation application of the Mounted Games Association of Ireland which was recommended by the Sport Sub Board to proceed.

Rita Dunne gave a report on the Vaulting Demonstration Day which took place in Spruce Lodge on Saturday 23rd March.

Irish Horse Gateway:

The CEO gave an update on the Irish Horse Gateway (IHG). IT Consultant for the IHG project, Fiona Mulreany, joined the Board to make a presentation on the IHG Website and to take feedback from Board members.

The Board welcomed the initiative and for the IHG project to proceed.

FEI General Regulations – Unsanctioned Events:

The CEO presented a discussion document regarding the new FEI rule regarding riders and officials participating in ‘unsanctioned events.’ The Board agreed for HSI to engage with Affiliates on the proposed document.

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012:

The National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Bill 2012 and the Irish Sports Council Guidance for NGB’s on this Act was included in the meeting packs. The Chairman asked Board members to disseminate information on this Act to their Affiliate organisations. Affiliates would be legally obliged to comply with this Act.

ISC Olympic Debrief:

The Irish Sports Council Debrief from the 2012 Olympic Games carried out by consultants Knight Kavanagh & Page was included in the meeting pack.

EU Court of Justice VAT Judgement:

The EU Court of Justice VAT judgment, received on March 15, 2013 was included in the meeting pack. It was noted that the implications of this judgment could be very serious depending on how the government interpreted and implemented the judgement.

Eventing Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

Georgia Stubington presented the Eventing Ireland Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) in order to compete at International Competitions. It was noted that this was a very complex matter. Georgia Stubington pointed out that there would have to be further revisions to the document on foot of changes announced by the FEI in recent days.

The Board agreed for the CEO to work with Eventing Ireland on behalf of the Board to approve the document.

Abbotstown Update:

The Finance Director reported that the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA) had gone to tender for a surface for the arena in Abbotstown.

Licensing of Studbooks/Passport Issuing Organisations:

The Chairman said that he had called a meeting with all of the Passport Issuing Organisations in response to the proposed government measures aimed at improving the horse identification and registration system in Ireland.

This meeting would take place on Thursday 28th March in the Keadeen Hotel in Newbridge. The Department of Agriculture would be attending the meeting to make a presentation.

The Chairman said an update note could be sent to the Board after the meeting on Thursday to let them know how it had gone.

A.O.B

The Chairman proposed that James Kennedy, who was currently on the Sports Sub Board as Chairman of the Federation of Irish Polo Clubs, be appointed to the Finance Committee. This nomination was approved by the Board.

The Chairman announced that Bernie Brennan had decided to step down as Chair of Horse Sport Ireland's Senior Showjumping Committee and would not be going forward for another term. The Chairman thanked Bernie Brennan for her work and contributions as Chair since 2006. He suggested he would temporarily take the position of Chairman of the committee for the remainder of 2013. This was approved by the Board.

The Finance Director said that the Irish Harness Racing Club had made an application for Affiliation to Horse Sport Ireland. After discussion the Board agreed that the Finance Director could proceed to discuss Affiliation with the Irish Harness Racing Club.

The Chairman suggested all Affiliations should be approved on a provisional basis for the first year of Affiliation. This was agreed.

The next Board meeting was provisionally scheduled for **Wednesday 15th May at 11.00am.**

ENDS