

**Briefing Note of the 51st Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) held on
20th June 2013**

Minutes of the 50th Board Meeting and Matters Arising:

The minutes of the 50th Board meeting were approved.

CEO Report:

The CEO provided a report to the Board of Directors. A copy of this document was included in the meeting pack.

Finance Report:

The Director of Finance presented the 2013 year to date management accounts which had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting and answered any questions from the Board relating to the figures.

Breeding Sub Board Report:

The Director of Breeding & Programmes presented the Breeding Sub Board report which has been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

There were concerns raised about the registration issues and reputational damage HSI might inherit by agreeing to accept the offer from the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) to maintain the Irish Cob Studbook and the Irish Cob Part Bred Studbook on a temporary basis pending a judicial review.

The Director of Breeding & Programmes clarified that the Studbook would be maintained under the same EU Legislation as other EU Approved Studbooks and HSI would not be liable for any historical issues as part of the on-going judicial review.

After discussion it was agreed that HSI should accept the offer to maintain the Studbook but it should be made clear to the DAFM that this would be maintained on a temporary basis.

The Chairman invited input from Board members on the welfare issue of unwanted horses, following an open forum held by the Stallion Owners Society in Abbeyleix on June 18th on this matter. The Chairman said he would circulate the presentation made by Michael Sheahan from the DAFM at the meeting.

While the Board were concerned about this issue and its potential welfare implications, they were not in favour of incentives being put in place to encourage individuals to surrender the animals for disposal.

Regarding the 2013 Irish Draught Breeding Policy Review, the Chairman said he had received correspondence from the Irish Draught Horse Society Limited Chairperson Anne Loughnane stating that they would not be participating in the review. The Board agreed that the Chairman should write to the Irish Draught Horse Society again asking them to reconsider joining the review taskforce.

The Director of Breeding and Programmes acknowledged the recent success of Irish Sport horses at the CCI4* 3 day Event at Luhmuhlen, She said the Minister for Agriculture, Food & The Marine, Simon Coveney, had publicly congratulated the breeders of Mr Cruise Control and High Kingdom in a press release.

Sport Sub Board Report:

The CEO presented the Sport Sub Board report which has been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

The report included a recommendation from the Sport Sub Board to Affiliate the Irish Harness Racing Club (IHRC) and the Side Saddle Association of Ireland (SSAI).

After discussion, the Board agreed to approve both requests for Affiliation, subject to a one year probation.

Strategic Plan Update:

Feedback on goals which had been received from Showjumping Ireland, Para Equestrian Ireland and Dressage Ireland were including in the meeting packs. Feedback on goals from Eventing Ireland, approved at the Eventing Ireland Board meeting on June 19th, were circulated at the meeting.

The CEO circulated an advert to be placed in the Irish Field inviting submissions from the equestrian community to the Strategic Plan. The Board agreed it would be appropriate to advertise for submissions from the equestrian community.

The CEO suggested, that as the RDS were also doing a strategic plan review, it would be better if an overall approach could be agreed rather than each body doing their own thing. The Board agreed that this should be explored even if it delayed HSI's planning process and that Teagasc should also be included

Irish Horse Gateway:

The CEO said registered sellers on the Irish Horse Gateway had been invited to a meeting in HSI on Wednesday 26th June. He said that any Board member who wished to attend should make contact with Louise Donnelly.

'Approved Events' – FEI Disciplines discussion document:

The CEO said he had received little feedback to date on the FEI Rule Change - Unsanctioned Events discussion document circulated to Affiliates. He has received some verbal feedback and written correspondence from the RDS which was circulated prior to the meeting. Feedback from Eventing Ireland, approved at the Eventing Ireland Board meeting on June 19th June, was circulated at the meeting.

The CEO reminded Board members that in order to implement the FEI rule, HSI would have to agree and introduce a policy on authorising events. He reiterated that he was available to

meet with any Affiliates who wished to discuss further with a view to having arrangements in place for 2014.

There was discussion involving the RDS and SJI representatives on the concerns addressed in the correspondence from Michael Duffy, Chief Executive of the RDS on the authorisation of its National Jumping competitions. SJI representatives stressed that they wanted to work with the RDS and that RDS classes were already run based on SJI rules. The CEO said he would meet with Michael Duffy to seek clarity on some of the points and concerns raised in his letter.

Annual Report – Abstract:

The CEO said HSI intended to produce an Annual Report for the organisation for each year, starting for the year 2012. A proposed list of data for inclusion in the report was included in the meeting pack. He invited Board members to submit feedback on any other data they thought should be included in the report.

Press and Public Relations Strategy:

Horse Sport Ireland's Media Dissemination Strategy, currently available on the HSI Website, was included in the meeting pack. The CEO suggested that HSI Press Officer Colin McClelland could be invited to the next Board meeting to give a presentation on HSI's Press and Public Relations Strategy. This was agreed.

A.O.B:

Charles Powell used the Board meeting as a forum to thank all those in the equestrian community who had sent well wishes and messages to his father on his 100th birthday.

The Chairman invited Tony Hurley to give an update on the meeting between SJI representatives and Noel C Duggan and family of Millstreet. Tony Hurley said the meeting had gone well and a follow up meeting would take place to further negotiate a resolution between both parties. He said a public apology from SJI to Millstreet would appear on the SJI Website and next SJI Bulletin.

Harold McGahern asked for an update on access to Coillte forest trails, following the government announcement on June 19th that it would not be proceeding with the sale of Coillte forests.

The CEO said that previously, negotiations had taken place with Coillte regarding equestrian access to forest trails and progress had been made. It would be intended to reactivate negotiations following the recent Government announcement.

The next Board meeting was provisionally scheduled for **Tuesday 3rd September at 10.00am**

ENDS