

**Briefing Notes of the 52nd Board Meeting of Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) held on  
9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at Sport HQ.**

**National Sports Campus (Abbotstown):**

Board members were given a tour of the new Equestrian Arena at the National Sports Campus in Abbotstown, led by Dave Conway, Development Officer for the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA). Board members also visited the Institute of Sport Building and other key developments at the National Sports Campus.

Lt. Col. Gerry O’Gorman (rtd.) and James Kennedy of the HSI Finance Committee, joined the Board members for this tour.

Barry O’Brien, Chief Executive of the NSCDA addressed the Board following the tour. He updated Board members on the developments of the project since he had met with them in November 2012.

He thanked the Board of Horse Sport Ireland for their support of this project and the HSI coaches and technical team involved. He also acknowledged HSI and in particular Director of Finance, Mark Bolger, for his involvement.

The CEO formally acknowledged Barry O’Brien and Dave Conway on behalf of the Board of HSI for their work and support of this development.

The date for the official launch of the new Equestrian Arena would be announced once the availability of Minister Leo Varadkar was confirmed.

At this point, Lt Col O’Gorman (retired) and James Kennedy left the meeting.

**Minutes of the 51st Board Meeting and Matters Arising:**

The minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Board meeting were approved.

**Board Correspondence:**

The CEO said he had received a letter from Tattersalls Ireland requesting that HSI would provide a commitment of funding for Tattersalls International 2014.

**CEO Report:**

The CEO circulated and presented a report to the Board of Directors. The Director of Finance and Administrative Assistant absented themselves from the meeting during the CEO’s presentation.

### **Annual Report:**

The latest revision of the HSI Annual Report was included in the meeting. There were some minor modifications to the previous draft circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

Feedback on the Annual Report was given. The Board agreed that the document was well presented and accurately conveyed the breadth of work carried out by Horse Sport Ireland.

A number of suggestions were made in relation to wording and presentation of some aspects of the document. The Chairman thanked the Board for their suggestions and said that, where possible, the suggestions should be incorporated into the report. However, he said it was the first year of such a document and that some of the suggestions which would result in more fundamental changes would be kept in mind for next year. The Board agreed with this approach.

### **Finance Report:**

The Director of Finance presented the July 2013 year to date management accounts which had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

### **Breeding Sub Board Report:**

The CEO presented the Breeding Sub-Board report, which had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

Hugh McCusker asked that the requirement to run a National Grand Prix Show in the ISH SJ Series Venue Application criteria be reconsidered for 2014.

Harold McGahern raised concern with the current quality control system for Irish Sport Horses. He asked that the issue of quality control be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Breeding Sub-Board.

### **Strategic Plan Update:**

The CEO advised that Teagasc and the RDS had agreed to do a combined strategic plan for the sector with HSI. The three organizations would be meeting soon to progress the next steps. An update on progress would be brought to the next Board meeting.

### **European Pony Championships 2014 – Millstreet Application:**

The FEI application by Millstreet, circulated to the Board prior to the meeting, to host the 2014 European Pony Championships for Dressage, Eventing and Show jumping was discussed.

It was agreed by the Board that of the three proposed dates, the 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July would be the most suitable.

Some concern was expressed about the fact that no existing cross country track was in place in Millstreet. It was agreed that Millstreet should run a National 1\* Eventing competition in the Spring of 2014 as a trial run for the European Championships and that they should have an alternative venue on standby for the cross country element in case the new track was not ready in time for the European Championships.

### **Garda Vetting Policy:**

The CEO presented a discussion document to the Board regarding Garda Vetting. He said HSI would be seeking to arrive at a formula whereby a person vetted for involvement with one Affiliate of HSI would be deemed as being vetted for all Affiliates. HSI would be seeking legal advice on the matter.

The document '*National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Act – Guidance for NGB's*' was included in the meeting pack for reference.

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

Georgia Stubington raised a query regarding why HSI provided for the testing of horses under the National Anti-Doping Programme who were not accompanied by their passports. It was explained that as horses without passports were allowed to compete in affiliate competitions, provision needed to be made to rule out a situation where competitors would effectively make themselves immune from testing by not bringing their passports.

The Director of Finance said a meeting had been sought with a Principal Officer in the Department of the Environment regarding the SJI proposal for tax relief on horse lorries. Affiliate representative would be asked to join the meeting when a date was confirmed.

Rita Dunne asked for an update on the letter which AIRE had sent to the Department of Agriculture in relation to equestrian centres. The Chairman said a meeting had been sought with Minister Coveney and this would be on the agenda for discussion.

The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am.**

**ENDS**

**This is a Briefing Note prepared by the CEO at the request of the Board. It has not been approved by the Board of Horse Sport Ireland.**