

**Briefing Note of the 54<sup>th</sup> Horse Sport Ireland Board Meeting held on**  
**18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 @ 10am in HSI Offices**

The Minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting were approved.

The CEO advised that he is optimistic that the reduced allocation to the Irish Sports Council may not be as severe as the 8% cut announced in the Government's budget for 2014. He advised that the Minister had indicated publicly that he was re-examining the issue.

The Board expressed their sympathy on the death of John Hall.

**Horseware / Team Ireland Riding Jacket**

Lorraine MacGuinness from Horseware gave a presentation on a proposed official Team Ireland riding jacket

Ms. McGuinness proposed that the Albanese riding jacket be designated as the official riding jacket for senior teams while a Horseware riding jacket, in a similar colour, would be the official jacket for the underage teams.

There was a discussion about the colours and design of the jackets but in general the Board agreed with the approach. They felt that the Horse Sport Ireland should take a strong line with riders to ensure that each team members wore the same jacket while competing for Ireland.

The Board thanked Lorraine MacGuinness and Horseware for their on-going support for Team Ireland and equestrian sport in general.

**CEO Report**

**Registrations Unit Review**

The review of the operations of the Registration Unit by Peter Clarke and Associates is nearing completion. A number of actions have already been implemented which have resulted in improvements to the process. A meeting took place with Stallion Owners on December 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issue of Covering Certificates which have been identified, in the review, as causing significant delays in the process.

**European Pony Dressage, Eventing and Show Jumping Championships 2014**

These Championships have now been confirmed by the FEI for 30<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 in Millstreet.

### HSI Marketing Sub-Group

The Chairperson of the new Marketing Sub Group Zoe Kavanagh, CEO of the National Dairy Council (NDC) has met with the HSI Marketing Department to be briefed on all of Horse Sport Ireland's marketing activities and will be invited to share her ideas with the board at a future meeting.

### Horse Sport Ireland website

The Marketing team are currently working on a redesign of the Horse Sport Ireland website.

### Rules Committee- wearing the 'Green Jacket'

The Horse Sport Ireland Rules Committee met on December 12<sup>th</sup>. One of the issues they discussed was rules regarding the wearing of the 'Green' Jacket in International competitions. While it was noted that some affiliates had their own rules in relation to the wearing of Jackets, it was felt that Horse Sport Ireland needed to issue clear rules/guidelines on this issue.

The Rules Committee set out the following suggestion for discussion at the HSI board. They also suggested seeking feedback directly from affiliates.

- The current HSI General Rules require riders to wear the attire designated by HSI while competing as part of an Irish team or at FEI championships. The Committee would propose to leave this rule as is but to be clearer with team riders and those representing Ireland at championships in relation to what is the designated attire.
- Riders should wear a 'green jacket' incorporating the Irish Flag while competing at an FEI competition at 3\* level or above.
- All riders riding at international level are entitled to wear a 'green jacket' incorporating the Irish flag.
- Riders riding in national competitions should not wear the Green Jacket.

There was general support for this approach and the board looked forward to receiving feedback from affiliates.

### Team Veterinarian

Marcus Swail, who has been the Team Veterinarian for the Irish senior teams since 2003, has indicated that he will step down as Team Veterinarian at the end of 2013 for family reasons, he has young children and doesn't wish to be away from home as much. Hugh Suffern will take over as senior eventing team vet while Pat Meagher will become Show Jumping Team vet, both have been involved with senior teams in the recent past.

### Pony Eventing Team Manager

Six applications have been received for the position of Pony Eventing Team Manager. Interviews will take place on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### Endurance High Performance Committee

A new Endurance High Performance Committee for 2014 was proposed. The committee will consist of Larry O' Neill, Nicola Boud and David Cunningham.

This was agreed by the Board.

It is hoped that Ireland will have an endurance team at the 2014 World Equestrian Games.

### Vaulting Advisory Group

The first meeting of the vaulting advisory group, chaired by Joan Keogh, took place in Horse Sport Ireland Offices on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The group is to establish the FEI discipline of vaulting in Ireland.

### VAT on Registrations-reminder

From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 Horse Sport Ireland will be applying VAT of 23% on all breeding registrations charges. All charges will be increased by 23% and rounded to the nearest whole number.

### **Finance Report**

In the absence of Mark Bolger, Director of Finance, the CEO presented the Finance Report.

There was a debate about the need for Horse Sport Ireland to better communicate the financial challenges faced by the organisation. It was felt that HSI needed to put more information into the public domain about what the organisations money was spent on. It was noted that the Annual Report was a good first step in this process.

### **Breeding Sub-Board Report**

The Director of Breeding and Programmes presented the Breeding Sub-Board report.

There was a discussion about Covering Certs and in particular the number of non- pedigree 'white books' being issued by Horse Sport Ireland.

The Board were of the view that this was detrimental to the industry as so much pedigree information was being lost. The Board were of the view that ‘white’ passports should be more expensive than pedigree passports. However, they noted that as there were other issuing bodies for ID documents, a move by HSI to increase the price would be likely to result in a migration of business from HSI to other providers, rather than a migration towards pedigree passports.

It was agreed that HSI should raise this issue with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Members of the Breeding Sub-Board also proposed that affiliate bodies should restrict their classes to horses with recorded pedigree. They acknowledged that a lead-in time would be needed for this.

### **ISH Show Jumping Series**

The Director of Breeding and Programmes presented a proposed document from the Breeding Sub-Board. Two changes to the conditions of application were highlighted, the first being a condition that each successful applicant show must affiliate to Showjumping Ireland and the second that each applicant show must have at least a National Grand Prix.

### **Sports Sub-Board Report**

The CEO advised that this report was circulated before the Board meeting and asked if there were any questions regarding same.

A query was raised regarding the published costs of hiring the new National Horse Sport Arena at Abbotstown. The CEO advised that the Arena was primarily for high performance activities. He advised that much lower rates would apply for high performance training. He stated that as he understood it the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA) would be keeping the pricing under review. However, he pointed out that the NSCDA would incur significant costs in maintaining the facility to a world class level.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

The CEO presented a draft Terms of Reference for the Industry Strategic Plan which was being undertaken by Horse Sport Ireland, Teagasc and the Royal Dublin Society. The board agreed these Terms of Reference. The Chairman advised that HSI intend to meet with the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Simon Coveney TD in January and will update the Board at the next meeting.

### **Millstreet Applications 2015 & 2016**

It was noted that Millstreet had applied to the FEI to host the European Children on Horses, Junior and Young Riders Showjumping Championships in the years 2015 and 2016 and it would be great if these two championships were secured .

**A.O.B.**

The Chairman noted that at the previous meeting there had been a suggestion that a Board member should be appointed to all sub committees. The Chairman said that he would welcome greater Board involvement in the various sub committees. He said that he would be discussing this with Board members in advance of the next meeting. In the interim he proposed that Liam Murphy would join the Coaching Steering Committee.

The CEO advised that Mark Bolger had led a HSI delegation to meet Officials in the Department of the Environment regarding horse lorry tax. The meeting had been productive and a further meeting was planned.

**ENDS**

This Briefing Note was prepared by the CEO at the request of the HSI Board; it is not an official *minute* of the meeting and has not been approved by the Board.