

## **Briefing Note of the 56<sup>th</sup> Horse Sport Ireland Board Meeting held on**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014 @ 10am in HSI Offices**

### **Pony Dressage High Performance Manager**

Following the allocation of the European Pony Championships, there was an increase in interest in sending a pony dressage team to these championships. The Dressage HP committee felt that establishing a Pony Dressage High Performance programme was merited given the level of interest. An advertisement for a High Performance Coach to lead the programme was placed and the successful applicant was Anne Marie Dunphy.

### **National Horse Sport Arena at Abbotstown**

The National Horse Sport Arena at the National Sports Campus at Abbotstown is now operating. To date there have been eleven training days held at the venue. The facility now includes ten working stables and a facility for lorry plug in. The National Sports Campus has now engaged an operative with equestrian expertise to run the facility. The Army Equitation School have been very helpful in providing additional show jumps and a dressage arena pending the securing of funding for additional equipment.

### **FEI TV/RTE/TG4**

In February, Horse Sport Ireland organised a meeting between FEI TV and RTE in relation to coverage of the World Equestrian Games in Ireland. While RTE intend to have a news presence at WEG, they are not in a position to show any live coverage. They have however expressed an interest in showing coverage on the RTE website subject to agreement with the FEI and related parties.

The issue of providing moving pictures promptly after an event to facilitate RTE News giving more coverage to Irish achievements internationally was also discussed. The FEI are well disposed towards this but there are logistical challenges.

The CEO reported that he had met with TG4 with a view to seeing if they would be interested in live coverage from the World Equestrian Games or other events. While they would be interested in principle, WEG clashes with other sports events they are committed to covering. However they have opened dialogue with FEI TV, MBTV and the EBU with regard to coverage.

### **Show Jumping U25 Squad/ Academy/ Structure**

It is proposed to establish a separate working group to progress the establishment of a rider development programme for riders who are no longer part of junior or young rider High Performance programmes. The Chairman has asked Lt. Col. Brian Mac Sweeney to chair the

group. It is proposed the initial membership of the group would consist of the Show Jumping Ireland and Horse Sport Ireland nominees to the senior and COH/JR/YR committees and the HSI Board nominee to the Coaching Steering Committee. The Board agreed to proceed with this.

### **Finance Report**

The Director of Finance gave a report to the Board of Directors regarding the following items:

- 2013 Management Accounts
- 2014 Draft Budget
- Sports Capital Grant Submission

The Director of Finance advised that auditors had been on site the week of 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March inclusive to conduct the statutory audit.

The Director of Finance advised that the draft unaudited management accounts for 2013 had recorded a surplus of €159k for 2013. The Director of Finance advised that a Finance Committee meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and that the audited statutory accounts will be brought to the Board at the next HSI Board meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

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

The Breeding Sub-Board report was presented by Alison Corbally. An Appendix detailing a list of sponsorships proposed by the Breeding Sub-Board was circulated and approved.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

The dates for regional public meetings to help devise a strategy for the sector were circulated. Some Board members raised the issue of there being no meeting in the North of Ireland This was noted and the CEO said he would raise it with the Working group.

The Chairman said that meetings were fixed with the Minister's availability in mind but that there could be further meetings, including one in Northern Ireland.

### **VAT on Horse Industry Activities**

The Director of Finance presented the VAT submission to Revenue which Grant Thornton had prepared on behalf of the sport horse sector. The Board stressed the importance of the submission.

### **WEG Selection Criteria, Eventing and Show Jumping**

The CEO presented selection criteria for the world equestrian Games in the disciplines of Eventing and Show Jumping. He advised the draft eventing criteria had been circulated to the previous board meeting and that no subsequent comments were received. The Show jumping criteria was a draft for comment. It had to go before the Show jumping High Performance Committee for further refinement

The Eventing Criteria was approved.

### **Application to the Sports Capital Programme**

The Director of Finance advised that a submission has been made to the Department of Sport under the Sports Capital Programme for equipment which will be based at the National Sports Stadium in Abbotstown. The decision regarding the submission is expected in six weeks, but there are no guarantees that this submission will be accepted for grant award.

### **Youth Olympic Games**

The CEO advised that Ireland has secured a place at the Youth Olympic Games 2014, based on Bertram Allen's silver medal in the European Show Jumping Championships in 2013. However, based on the rules of the competition, Bertram Allen would not be eligible for the 2014 games. The games were based on composite European teams who would compete on borrowed horses. Draft selection criteria were circulated. These criteria needed to be agreed by HSI and the Olympic Council of Ireland. It was agreed that the CEO progress the matter with the OCI on behalf of the board.

### **FEI Endurance Conference Report – Larry O'Neill**

Larry O'Neill presented a report to the Board regarding the FEI Endurance conference which took place in Lausanne on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Larry O'Neill had represented HSI at the meeting.

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.**