

Briefing Note of the 57th Horse Sport Ireland Board Meeting held on

Tuesday 27th May 2014 @ 10am in HSI Offices

Kevin Mc Guinness was nominated by the Association of Irish Riding Clubs (AIRC) to represent AIRC on the Board. Mr. Mc Guinness replaced Ms. Rita Dunne who represented the Association of Irish Riding Establishments (AIRE).

Minutes of the 56th Board Meeting and Matters Arising

The Director of Finance advised that following a public advertisement that an extra four vets have been added to the national anti-doping veterinarian panel to fill vacancies and increase the number of vets available for testing.

Board Correspondence

The CEO advised that Peter Fell, Ballindenisk, sent in correspondence to the Chairman requesting permission to apply for the FEI European Senior Eventing Championships in 2019.

While the FEI application process for these championships was not yet open the Board noted the correspondence and had no objections to Ballindenisk proceeding to prepare the way for making an official bid for these championships at the appropriate time.

The CEO also advised that correspondence was received on 28th April 2014 from the office of Minister Michelle O'Neill MLA (DARD) seeking to meet with HSI to discuss putting formal links in place with the Equine Council for Northern Ireland (ECNI).

CEO Report

The CEO provided a report to the Board of Directors. The Director of Finance, Director of Breeding and Programmes and administrative assistant absented themselves from the meeting for this presentation.

World Equestrian Games 2014

The relevant High Performance Managers and Committees are preparing their squads for these championships. At present it is very likely that Ireland will be represented by full teams in show jumping, eventing and para dressage. We will have individuals and possibly a team in dressage and endurance. There is also a possibility of one individual qualifier in vaulting. We will not be represented in carriage driving or reining.

Team Ireland Equestrian Riding Jackets

Horseware have completed the design of the new Team Ireland Equestrian riding jackets for the Senior and underage teams. It is intended that these jackets will be available to the senior teams for the World Equestrian Games and to the underage teams for their Championships.

Failte Ireland Major Events Team

Failte Ireland has established a special unit to help National bodies in Ireland to bid to bring major international events to Ireland. The Irish Sports Council facilitated a recent briefing for National Governing Bodies with the new unit. The CEO reported that he had subsequently met Failte Ireland to brief them on the World Equestrian Games as a concept. It was agreed to wait until after the 2014 games before considering whether Ireland should examine a bid for the 2022 games.

Rider development programme/Academy/U25 squad Show Jumping

An initial meeting of the working group, to explore this topic, took place on May 20th. It was agreed to hold a workshop/seminar for a selected number of promising riders in the autumn. A further meeting will take place next month to agree the format of the day and a list of those who will be invited to participate.

Finance Report

The Director of Finance advised that Noel Delaney, Partner from Grant Thornton had attended the HSI Finance Committee meeting at HSI offices on 13th May 2014 to present the details of the 2013 audited accounts and to deal with any queries raised by the Committee. The Director of Finance confirmed that the HSI Finance Committee had recommended that the audited accounts be recommended to the Board for approval.

The Board were asked to note that the results in the audited accounts in statutory format were consistent with the financial results of the 2013 management accounts which were previously presented to the Board. The Director of Finance presented the details of the audited accounts to the Board. Having considered the audited accounts the Board gave its approval and recommended the adoption of the accounts at the AGM.

Breeding Sub-Board Report

The Director of Breeding and Programmes advised that the Irish Draught Task Force will bring the draft document to the next HSI Breeding Sub-Board meeting. The Director of Breeding and Programmes advised that although stallion owners are obliged under the rules of the Irish Horse Register to submit covering certificates for all mares covered by the 1st of October in the year of covering, many of these are not being submitted by the deadline.

The Director of Breeding and Programmes advised that the HSI Breeding Sub-Board agreed to give free unlimited access to all paid-up members of the IHB and NIHB shareholders to CapallOir. This was welcomed by the board.

Sport Sub-Board Report

The CEO advised that the Road Safety Authority have received legal clarification on certain elements within the text of the proposed publication of the Horse Road Safety Guide, which was put on hold last year.

Strategic Plan Update

The meeting was advised that there was huge interest in the recent Sport Horse Industry Regional meetings and that a large amount of submissions have already been received and submitted to the Working Group. It is envisaged that the strategic plan will be finalised by the end of the summer.

Irish Sports Council – Governance Code

The Director of Finance advised that the Irish Sports Council held an information evening recently when Kieran Mulvey encouraged sporting organisations to sign up to the Governance Code voluntarily.

The Director of Finance advised that the ISC are promoting the adoption of the Governance Code by all Irish Sports Council funded organisations. The Board agreed that HSI should commit to the Code and work towards its adoption. It was agreed that Larry O’Neill would work with the Director of Finance on implementing the Code for HSI.

WEG Selection Criteria – Show Jumping

The CEO advised of the criteria to select a team for the World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Show Jumping had been circulated to the Directors before the meeting. The Board approved the criteria as circulated.

Child Protection

The Board agreed that as HSI were carrying out Garda vetting for all affiliates with the exception of the Irish Pony club, that one HSI Referrals committee should consider all disclosures on returned vetting forms and decide if the candidates in question were suitable to take up positions in the affiliate bodies. All information will be provided to the referrals committee without the identity of the applicant being disclosed.

After further discussion, the Board agreed with the CEO's recommendation that Dermot Howlin of Gymnastics Ireland, who has been helping Horse Sport Ireland with Child Protection policies would be invited to make a presentation at the next Board meeting on Tuesday 15th July 2014.

Changes to Memorandum and Articles of Association and HSI General Rules

The CEO advised that it is proposed to bring the following three adjustments to the Memorandum of Articles to the AGM:

- That the reference to Carriage Driving Ireland in the Memorandum and Articles of association be amended to the Carriage Driving section of Horse Sport Ireland.
- In the General Rules, it would be more efficient to have any appeals go through Just Sport Ireland as opposed to the Court for Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne.
- In the terms of the Board composition, there is currently reference to a nominee of the Minister for Defence. It was agreed to alter this to say that the seat would be held by the Officer Commanding of the Army Equitation School and that the Officer Commanding could hold the seat for as long as they held the Position as Officer Commanding. No term limit would apply to this Board appointment.

AOB

The issue of show jumping points being allocated by SJI to foreign horses was raised. Tony Hurley, as chairman of the SJI advised that the current system ensures fair competition insofar that if no documentation is provided, 76 points are allocated. Tony Hurley also advised that the points system for 2015 will be reviewed in October and that SJI was fully aware that concerns had been raised.

The CEO advised that following the signing of a Statutory Instrument by Minister Simon Coveney it will be a legal requirement to register changes in Horse ownership with the Passport Issuing Organisation who issued the original passport. This new requirement will apply from July 1st, 2014.

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.