

Briefing Note of the 60th Horse Sport Ireland Board Meeting held on

Tuesday 18th November 2014 @ 10am in HSI Offices

The Chairman welcomed two new members to the Board, Anne Bannon, who replaced P J Foy and Dr. Jack Murphy, who replaces Pat McCarthy.

The Chairman paid tribute to Joe Walsh, former Chairman of Horse Sport Ireland who sadly passed away on November 2nd. The members of the Board wished to convey their sympathies to Joe's family and acknowledged the great work Joe did for the sector and agreed that his contribution would have to be recognised in a fitting way.

Minutes of the 59th Board Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the 59th Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) Board meeting were proposed by Harold McGahern and seconded by Gerry McCloskey and agreed by the Board.

Board Correspondence

The CEO advised that there is no board correspondence.

Chief Executive Officer Report

Budget 2015

An additional allocation was made to Horse Sport Ireland from the Department of Agriculture in the budget. The quote from the Minister's Press Release announcing the extra allocation was:

As part of the new ten year development plan for the sport horse sector the Minister is providing €600,000 in support of the promotion and marketing activities of Horse Sport Ireland.

Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children

Dr. Mary Flannery made a presentation on behalf of Horse Sport Ireland to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children on October 9th. The committee asked a number of National Governing Bodies to make presentations on how concussion was managed in their sport. Dr. Flannery's presentation was well received. This is an issue that we need to keep on top of and there may be a need for the Sport Sub-board to set up a working group on medical issues with the aim of having a consistent approach across all disciplines.

European Equestrian Forum Annual General Meeting in Lisbon

The AGM of the European Equestrian Forum took place from October 20th to October 23rd in Lisbon. The agenda included presentations by the six potential candidates for the Presidency of the FEI. This election will take place in Baku on the week ending December 14th.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the matter of who Ireland would vote for would be left to the judgement of the Chairman.

HSI Coaching and Breeding Conference

Over 400 delegates attended the HSI Coaching and Breeding Conference in Cavan on October 29th. The event was very well organised and seemed to be well received by those in attendance. A board member complimented the event and suggested that the board should convey its appreciation to the demo riders for allowing themselves be used as the “subjects” on the day.

Tattersall’s International Horse Trials

A meeting took place with Tattersalls on November 13th regarding next year’s Horse Trials. Tattersalls are anxious to receive a letter of comfort from Horse Sport Ireland stating our support for the event and indicating that we hope to be a position to fund the event at a similar level to 2014. The board agreed that the event should be supported as it was very important for the industry in Ireland but the exact amount of funding allocated would be dependent on the budgetary position.

Recent successes

The board noted the recent team gold medal by the young rider eventing team and the individual bronze medal won by Elizabeth Hayden at the same Championships Joseph Murphy’s strong placing in the CCI4* event in Pau with Sportsfield Othello(ISH) and Bertram Allen’s win in the World Cup Class in Verona CSI5* were also noted and the achievements acknowledged.

Finance Report

The Director of Finance advised that the Finance Committee meeting was held on 17th November 2014. The Director of Finance presented the Management Accounts summary for the ten months ending 31st October 2014.

Breeding Sub-Board Report

The Breeding Sub Board report was circulated prior to the meeting.

To help deal with the white identification document issue, the Breeding Sub Board have again recommended that HSI would engage with the sporting affiliates and sales companies to limit competitions and certain sales to animals with Studbook passports from 2019 onwards.

The Breeding Sub Board unanimously approved the Irish Draught Task Force Report, which will be launched at the Irish Horse Board AGM on 19 November 2014.

The Irish Sport Horse Studbook has been confirmed as the winner of the WBFSH Eventing Rankings for 2013/2014.

The 2015 Stallion Book should be available from late February 2015. Input from the HSI Breeding Sub Board was sought and a number of potential improvements were proposed. One issue of concern is the cost of posting the book to members. Options in relation to this are being considered.

Stallion inspections for spring 2015 were provisionally scheduled for 25th & 26th February 2015 at Cavan Equestrian Centre. However as the Working Group on Inspections is reviewing these processes, it has been decided to put back the inspections for a month so that recommendations of the working group can be implemented.

Sport Sub-Board Report

The report of the sport sub-board was circulated prior to the meeting. The Irish Quarter Horse Association (IQHA) are seeking affiliation with HSI. The CEO advised that the Sports Sub Board have recommended approval on condition that all children U18 must wear approved helmets while riding (rather than Stetsons). On this basis the board agreed to approve their affiliation for a one year probationary period.

Strategic Plan Update

The CEO gave an update on the recommendations in the proposed industry Strategic Plan *Reaching New Heights*. The Chairman was hopeful that the plan would be finalised at the next meeting of the Steering Group which was fixed for December 4th. On December 15th there will be a further briefing for industry representatives who made a submission to the plan after which the report will be presented to the Minister for Agriculture.

Olympic Council Agreement

The Board agreed to sign the OCI document regarding the 2016 OCI/NF Olympic Qualification Agreement.

HSI Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Youths and Vulnerable Adults in our Sport

The Board approved this document and the holding of an EGM to ratify it. They also approved the establishment of a referrals committee to consider disclosures under garda vetting. The committee will consist of Board member Gerry Mc Closkey, Mary Walsh the National Children's Officer with RDAI and CEO Damian Mc Donald.

AOB

The Chairman said that he had been contacted by the Chairman of the Irish Equine Centre regarding funding for the centre from the sport horse sector. If Horse Sport Ireland were to provide funding they would also be allocated a seat on the Board of Directors. The CEO is due to meet the CEO of the Equine Centre shortly to discuss the issue in more detail. He will revert at the next board meeting.

The Chairman raised the issue of a replacement competition for the Future Event Horse League. The CEO stated that he had met with Harold McGahern regarding the creation of an alternative programme for young event horses. The CEO said that the matter would form part of the sponsorship review but that there was a strong desire amongst the eventing community for a replacement competition to be put in place as part of an overall plan for the development of three day event horses. The board agreed that it would be important for a replacement programme to be in place and that it was important to maintain an eventing presence at the RDS Dublin Horse Show.

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.