

Briefing Note of the 62nd Horse Sport Ireland Board Meeting held on

Tuesday 3rd March 2015 @ 11.15am in McKee Barracks, Blackhorse Avenue, Dublin 7

Lt Col Brian MacSweeney, the Officer Commanding of the Army Equitation School, welcomed the HSI Board members to the Octagon Conference Room in McKee Barracks.

The Chairman welcomed Norbert Von Cramen as the new Dressage Ireland nominee to the Board.

The Chairman advised that Larry O'Neill has retired from the Board due to work commitments and acknowledged his input and expressed the appreciation of all the Board members and executive staff.

Minutes of the 61st Horse Sport Ireland Board Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd January 2015 and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the 61st meeting were then approved by the Board.

Board Correspondence

There were no items to the Board.

Chief Executive Officer Report

High Performance

Coach, Pony Eventing

Following a recruitment process Becky Cullen has been appointed as the new High Performance Coach for Pony Eventing.

Showjumping

The recent successes of Bertram Allen in the World Cup Qualifier in Bordeaux and of the Senior Show jumping Nations Cup team in Ocala Florida were noted by the Board.

Director of International Marketing

53 applications have been received for the post of Director of International Marketing.

Senior Eventing High Performance Programme

The Irish Institute for Sport have completed their review of the eventing High Performance Programme, with a view to putting a programme in place which is focused on preparing for Rio.

Finance Report – Draft Budget for Discussion

The Director of Finance presented the draft budget for 2015 to the Board for discussion. He advised that he was not seeking Board approval for the budget at this point in time, as of yet there was no confirmation of the level of funding Horse Sport Ireland would receive through the Equine Project Support Grant (formerly NDP). The closing date for applications under this scheme is 6th March 2015.

The Director of Finance distributed a document containing detailed notes outlining the breakdown under various headings. The Chairman noted the level of detail provided and suggested that Board members should go through the figures in detail and come back to the Director of Finance with any queries or suggestions for savings.

It was noted that the draft budget would also be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting on 24th March 2015.

The Board were advised that Horse Sport Ireland were subject to regular audits from the Department of Agriculture and Sport NI. In addition, Horse Sport Ireland have been selected by The Irish Sports Council as a number of NGB's to be audited in 2015.

Breeding Sub-Board Report

The Director of Breeding presented the Breeding Sub-Board report and advised that the entries for the forthcoming stallion inspections were similar to that of 2014.

The registration of cloned horses is permitted in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook. However such animals will be stamped as ineligible for slaughter for human consumption. Based on current advice from the Department of Agriculture, the progeny of cloned horses will however be eligible for slaughter for human consumption. Following queries from Board members, the Director of Breeding and Programmes undertook to check this again with the Department.

The dates for the 2015 ISH Show Jumping Series were confirmed and the role of the SJI and the RDS in facilitating a better spread of dates between the ISH series and the RDS qualifiers was acknowledged. Hugh McCusker queried whether all of the legs of the series would count towards the Lanaken selection. The Director of Breeding advised that the closing date for entries for Lanaken may come before the final leg of the series. This will be checked with the FEI and the OC to see if the entries can be delayed until after the final leg.

Recent training took place for Irish Sport Horse and Irish Draught Horse Inspectors in McKee Barracks and Grennan College respectively.

In view of the increased emphasis on a scientific breeding programme in the Strategic Plan, *Reaching New Heights*, the Breeding Sub-Board has established a Scientific/Genetic/Research Technical Group to advise the Breeding Sub-Board. The membership of the group will be confirmed shortly.

The Chairman asked for an update on the threatened boycott of stallion inspections as had been reported in The Irish Field. The Director of Breeding advised that of the 41 stallion applications received, only three had not been fully signed and also these were received late.

It is expected that this matter will be discussed at the Breeding Sub-Board meeting of 6th March 2015. While the Board would prefer not to see such matters in the media, they were of the view that HSI needed access to the DNA profiles of stallions and in some cases to the actual DNA sample to confirm parentage in the Irish Horse Register. It was important that this should not be compromised. Discussions were on-going and it was hoped a satisfactory resolution could be found.

Sport Sub-Board Report

The CEO took the Board through the Sport Sub-Board report.

He advised that the Sport Sub-Board had decided to establish a medical sub group to examine medical matters which are common to all affiliates. The most pressing issue is the need for consistent concussion protocols across all affiliates. The issue of the need for improved information sharing was also raised.

Strategic Plan Update – HSI Response Discussion Document

The CEO went through a document which summarised the recommendations in the Industry strategic plan *Reaching New Heights* which would be launched later that day. The document also summarised the actions recommended in the document and outlined possible HSI actions.

The board were asked to reflect on the document with a view to being in a position to decide on the priority actions for HSI at the next meeting.

In the interim it was agreed that HSI should facilitate a meeting of the three Olympic discipline affiliates to explore recommendations in the report relating to a single registration fee and a single IT platform for the sector.

The Board noted the work done by the CEO in producing the draft document for discussion.

Innovation Fund Allocation

The CEO advised the Board that he understood that approximately 50 applications for funding were received under the Innovation fund. The Finance Committee will review each application.

Proposed Agreement with the Irish Greyhound Board

The CEO went through the '*Jumping in the City*' update discussion document, which outlined details of a proposed series of Show Jumping events in Greyhound Stadia in Galway, Limerick, Cork and Shelbourne Park. '*Jumping in the City*' is the brainchild of Minister Simon Coveney.

Draft HSI Meetings Calendar

The CEO went through the up-to-date HSI meetings calendar for 2015.

AOB

The Chairman extended sympathies on behalf of the Board to Charles Powell on the death of his father, Jack Powell.

The Chairman also extended sympathies to Dr Jack Murphy on the death of his father, Simon Murphy.

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.