

Briefing Note of the 63rd Horse Sport Ireland Board Meeting held on

Tuesday 5th May 2015 @ 10am in HSI Offices

Minutes of the 62nd Board Meeting and Matters Arising

Harold McGahern queried the definite entry dates for Lanaken for 2015 with the Director of Breeding and Programmes, who advised that further clarification will be sought.

The Minutes of the 62nd HSI Board meeting were then approved by the Board.

Board Correspondence

There were no items for presentation to the Board.

CEO Report

Director of International Marketing

The CEO advised the Board that following a recruitment process, Elaine Hatton has been appointed to the position of Director of International Marketing with Horse Sport Ireland. Elaine Hatton will formally take up the position with HSI on June 7th, 2015.

EEF Secretary General's Forum/Para Equestrian Forum

The CEO attended the European Equestrian Federation's Secretary General's forum in Essen, Germany on Friday 20th March 2015, followed by the FEI Para Equestrian forum on Saturday March 21st and Sunday March 22nd when he gave a presentation on Ireland's pathway to medal success at the Paralympic Games in London.

Bertram Allen finishes third in the World Cup Final in Las Vegas

Bertram Allen, riding Molly Malone, finished in third place in the World Cup final in Las Vegas. There was very significant coverage of the competition in Ireland where it featured on the main news bulletin and #gobertram trended on twitter. There was also an outstanding performance at the event from 19yo Irish Sport Horse Flexible.

Judy Reynolds Breaks Irish Dressage Freestyle record

Judy Reynolds has been having significant success on the international dressage circuit in recent months. This culminated in her achieving a record Freestyle score of 75.725 at the recent four star show in Hagen, Germany.

Ireland finish 2nd in Ballindenisk Nations Cup

The Irish team of Sarah Ennis/Horseware Rebound, Aoife Clark/Arco BB, Joseph Murphy/Westwinds Heracles and Sam Watson/Horseware Lukeswell finished second of three teams in the FEI Nations Cup in Ballindenisk.

Olympic selection documents

Horse Sport Ireland is in discussions with the Olympic Council of Ireland regarding the selection policy for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. The policies we had in place for London generally worked well and it would be our intention to follow that template. We would expect to be in a position to circulate documents for formal approval before the next Horse Sport Ireland Board meeting.

Irish Equine Centre

The issue of funding from the Sport horse sector for the Irish Equine Centre is still being raised within the wider equine community. While Horse Sport Ireland's funding position was outlined at a previous Board meeting, we have been invited to engage further by the Equine Centre.

Finance Report

The Director of Finance presented the management accounts for Quarter 1, three months ending 31st March 2015.

Irish Sports Council voluntary Code of Governance for NGB's

HSI is currently preparing for the adoption of the Irish Sports Council (ISC) voluntary Code of Governance for National Governing Bodies (NGB's). It is intended that HSI would be ready to adopt the Code by the end of 2015. The Director of Finance acknowledged Larry O'Neill's contribution to the project during his time on the Board. The Board requested that the Director of Finance contact Larry O'Neill to ask if he would be prepared to oversee the project to the end of 2015.

Code of Conduct for Board Members

As part of HSI adopting the ISC's voluntary Code of Governance for NGB's, it is recommended that HSI Board members sign up to a Code of Conduct. A template Code of Conduct had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting as being a template of best practice.

It was agreed by the Board to proceed with the current Code of Conduct form, subject to the caveat that the grievance procedure be clarified.

Deloitte Internal Audit of Horse Sport Ireland

The ISC engaged Deloitte to perform a routine internal audit of HSI as one of a number of NGB's being audited in 2015. The audit is at the cost of the ISC. The objective of the Deloitte assignment is to provide an assessment of the governance arrangements, finance control framework and grant award process within HSI. Deloitte auditors were on site at the HSI offices from Monday 20th to Wednesday 22nd April inclusive.

The Director of Finance confirmed that Deloitte had not concluded its report at this stage.

The Board noted that the allocation of international hosting grants and sports affiliate grants for 2015 were currently on hold pending the outcome of the Deloitte report. The Board requested, if possible, for the report to be furnished by the ISC before the next HSI Board meeting.

It was agreed that the Director of Finance would contact Deloitte regarding a timeline for delivery of the internal audit report to the ISC. This report will be sought to make available at the next HSI Board meeting on Tuesday, 21st July 2015.

Innovation Fund

The Director of Finance went through the allocations of funding under the Innovation Fund, as per the Finance Committee meeting held on 24th March 2015. The Board noted that there were 68 projects, with 11 projects approved for funding in the Republic of Ireland.

Hugh McCusker advised that he met with Andrew Adams from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to discuss funding of projects based in Northern Ireland; the Director of Breeding also attended this meeting. Hugh McCusker advised that although Andrew Adams took the strategy on Board, there is no money available for competitions. The Director of Breeding was asked to assist in following up with Andrew Adams.

The Director of Finance advised that the NIHB contacted HSI regarding the possibility of the NIHB funding the Northern projects. Discussions are on-going in relation to this.

Breeding Sub Board Report

The Director of Breeding and Programmes presented the Breeding Sub Board report to the HSI Board of Directors.

Stallion Selections 2015

The 2015 stallion inspections for the ISH Studbook and the ID Studbook took place at Cavan Equestrian Centre on the 25th & 26th March.

Mare Selections 2015

Mare inspections for the ISH and ID Studbooks took place at Top Flight Equestrian Centre, Kilkenny on the 20th April 2015 and at Galway Equestrian Centre on the 21st and 22nd April 2015.

Sport Horse Foal Championship

The Director of Breeding and Programmes advised that the Sport Horse Foal Championship, as approved at the HSI Board meeting of 23rd January 2015, will be held in July/August with a prize fund of €30,000. The aim of the Championship will be to identify, evaluate and reward breeders who have bred a foal that has the potential to be competitive at the highest International level in the disciplines of showjumping or eventing.

There will be five Regional Championships at selected shows/venues with separate sections for potential showjumping foals and potential eventing foals.

The Director of Breeding and Programmes advised that HSI are seeking applications from existing shows interested in hosting the Regional Championships and Final.

Mare Championship

Two separate Mare Championships for young showjumping and eventing mares, as approved at the HSI Board meeting of 23rd January 2015, will be held this year with a prize fund of €15,000 each. The aim of these championships is to identify, evaluate and reward owners of mares that are capable of performing at the highest level in show jumping/eventing and are suitable for producing progeny that would be competitive in this discipline.

The Showjumping Championship will be held this October/November and the eventing Championship will take place in August/September. Applications for venues/shows to host both Championships are currently being sought by HSI.

Irish Draught Mare Inspection Amnesty

The Director of Breeding and Programmes advised that the Irish Draught mare amnesty was introduced in 2012 to allow the female progeny of mares that were classified as 'ID' prior to March 2011 to be eligible for inspection providing their 'ID' dam was by a stallion that is classified as Class 1 or Class 2 and out of a dam that is classified as RID, Class 1, Class 2, AID or Grade Up Register.

At a previous meeting of the Breeding Sub Board on the 6th March 2015, it had been agreed to extend this Amnesty to include the progeny of Class 3 and Class 4 stallions and mares.

Eligibility Criteria for GLAS/ANC Schemes

The Director of Breeding and Programmes advised that the HSI Breeding Sub Board expressed concern over the current equine eligibility criteria for the new GLAS Scheme and Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme (ANC), as they are not linked with quality improvement.

It was agreed that the Director of Breeding and Programmes should meet with the Department of Agriculture and request that the criteria be amended to better reflect the objectives of the new Strategic Plan, breed improvement and the recording of pedigree.

Traditional Horses Breeding Committee

The inaugural meeting of Traditional Irish Horse Breeding Committee was held at the HSI offices on the 20th April 2015. The new Committee aims to develop and encourage the breeding of traditionally bred horses and consists of three representatives from the Traditional Horse Breeding Association (TIHA) and three members of the HSI Breeding Sub Board.

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine - Knowledge Transfer Schemes

The Director of Breeding and Programmes advised the HSI Board that a new Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 will consist of support for Knowledge Transfer Groups across a number of sectors: beef, sheep, dairy, poultry, tillage and equine. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has prioritised the beef, dairy and equine sectors.

Funding of €100 million has been made available under the RDP, with the process having commenced on 30th April 2015, by way of a call for expressions of interest to all qualified advisors, which will close on 22nd May 2015.

Each participant of a knowledge exchange group meeting will be required to attend a minimum of five meetings, which will be facilitated by a DAFM approved advisor. All participants will also be required to complete a Farm Improvement Plan (FIP) involving:

- Profit Monitor
- Carbon Navigator/Sustainability Management Plan
- Herd Health Plan
- Breeding Plan

Sport Sub Board Report

The CEO presented the Sport Sub Board report to the HSI Board.

HGV Levy Northern Ireland

A memorandum from David Kirkpatrick, Hon Secretary of the NI Equestrian Council, was circulated to the Sports sub Board at the meeting on Monday 9th March 2015 regarding a HGV levy being applied in Northern Ireland.

It was noted that individuals must be mindful to pay the toll on a HGV before crossing the Border, otherwise a £300 fine could be imposed if stopped.

Child Protection Update

Triona Connors, Equestrian Sport Co-ordinator, gave a brief update on Child Protection. Triona Connors advised that Ciara Gorman, HSI Child Protection Officer, will directly communicate with the nominated affiliate National Children Officers (NCO's) of Affiliates from now on.

'Jumping in the City'

The schedule for the 'Jumping in the City' series was circulated. The HSI Board approved the appointment of an Organising Committee to make decisions as out in the Schedule.

James Kennedy (Chairman), HSI Finance Committee Chairman
Tony Hurley, HSI Board member, SJI Chairman
Eamon Rice, SJI National Competitions Chairman

The CEO indicated he was confident that the sponsorship target would be achieved.

Special Olympics Ireland have come on board as a charity partner.

General discussion ensued regarding betting at the 'Jumping in the City' events. The CEO advised that HSI are in discussion with the Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) in order to operate a tote on the night. The Board were keen that a pilot tote facility be operated at the events.

FEI Sport Forum

The FEI Sport Forum took place in Lausanne, Switzerland, on the 27th & 28th April 2015. 59 national federations were represented at this forum, with Harold McGahern representing HSI.

Harold McGahern gave a detailed report on the forum. In particular, the forum discussed changes to equestrian disciplines at Olympic level.

The CEO pointed out that the proposed changes are fundamental and need to be considered very carefully over the coming months with a view to establishing what HSI's position on the various elements of the proposal should be.

Sport NI Presentation

Marc Scott from Sport NI gave a presentation to the HSI Board regarding Performance Focus.

AOB

Gerry McCloskey presented a booklet to the HSI Board from the Sunshine Tour.

The CEO will circulate a list of upcoming FEI vacancies, to the HSI Board. The closing date for nominations was June 15th. These appointments are normally dealt with by the HSI rules committee.

The next HSI Board meeting will take place on at 10am in HSI offices on Tuesday, 21st July 2015.

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.