

**Briefing Note of the 59<sup>th</sup> Horse Sport Ireland Board Meeting held on  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in HSI Offices**

The Chairman welcomed Anne-Marie O’Gorman who was replacing Paddy Joe Foy as an Irish Horse Board nominee on the Board. The meeting was advised that Anne Bannon had also replaced Neil Henry as an Irish Horse Board nominee.

**Chief Executive Report**

Pony European Championships Millstreet (IRL) July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>

These Championships were an outstanding success for Ireland. They were excellently organised and all of the Irish competitors were excellent ambassadors for Ireland. The board complemented The Duggan family and Millstreet on the organisation of the Championships and felt that a letter written by Horse Sport Ireland to The Irish Field accurately reflected the views of the board.

Recent successes

The board acknowledged the recent success of Bertram Allen in the Grand Prix of Ireland at Dublin Horse Show, the recent gold medal for the Irish Junior Eventing Team along the individual silver medal won by Cathal Daniels. Michael Duffy’s gold medal as part of the European team at the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China was also commended.

Horse Sport Ireland Level 2 Coaches

Horse Sport Ireland announced the appointment of 7 new Level 2 coaches this week. The newly qualified coaches are Aisling Doherty, Donegal; Crea English, Wexford; Nicola Fitzgibbon, Kildare; Louise Halford, Kildare; Emma Kieran, Kildare; Robert Murdy, Cavan and Cormac Rafferty, Galway.

Dressage Ireland

Dressage Ireland’s National Secretary Gerd Liekens retired recently. Following discussions Dressage Ireland have now decided to move their Head Office to Horse Sport Ireland’s offices in Naas. Horse Sport Ireland will provide the administration service previously provided by the National Secretary and will also assist with their accounts function.

Major events- Free to air

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural resources are currently reviewing the list of events designated as ‘events of major importance’. Events on this list must be made available for broadcast by ‘a free television service with greater than 90 percent coverage’. The Nations Cup at the Dublin Horse Show is currently on this list. The Board agreed that it is important for equestrian sport that the Nations Cup remained on the list.

## **WEG Report**

The CEO gave a report to the Board on the recent World Equestrian Games in Kentucky.

The board were circulated with a copy of all the results for the games as well as the Horse Sport Ireland Press pack which was produced for the games which had details of all the 21 athletes who represented Ireland as well as the 32 Irish bred horses who competed at the games.

Overall the games had been success for Ireland with the Eventing team securing a place in the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016. The Board also noted a strong performance by the Show Jumping team who were just one place away from Olympic Qualification having finished 7<sup>th</sup> of 35 teams. A particular highlight was Bertram Allen's win in the opening speed class where he beat 152 of the World's top riders.

It was noted that the Dressage Team had finished 22<sup>nd</sup> of 24 riders and while this had been in line with expectations, it was felt that Horse Sport Ireland should set a higher qualifying standard for combinations for the 2018 games which are due to take place in Bromont in Canada. In general, the cost of sending horses to the next Games in Canada would be very high and this would be something the board of Horse Sport Ireland would need to be mindful of over the coming years.

## **Finance Report**

The Director of Finance presented the management accounts summary for the seven months ending July 2014.

The Director of Finance advised that Enterprise Ireland are leading a Trade Mission to the Chinese Horse Fair in Beijing, China from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and that HSI will be attending as part of the Enterprise Ireland presence.

The Chairman advised the Board that he felt it would be more appropriate that the Chairmanship of the Board of Directors and the Chairmanship of the Finance Sub Committee be held by different people. He proposed to the Board that James Kennedy who was a member of the Finance Committee since 2013, would take over as the Chairman of the Committee. This was agreed by the Board.

## **Breeding Report**

The Director of Breeding & Programmes advised that two new members were welcomed to the Breeding Sub-Board on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 following Irish Horse Board elections. The new members are Alex Deon and Barbara Hatton.

The Department of Agriculture have confirmed that horses which have entered into the Irish Sport Horse Studbook as part of the cross breeding programme and have met the inspection criteria may compete in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook Series. This includes thoroughbreds. The Breeding Sub-Board requested that a draft proposal regarding the criteria for the 2015 derogation be presented at the next meeting to allow further consideration.

Georgia Stubington and Harold McGahern welcomed the inclusion of thoroughbreds in the series.

Horse Sport Ireland supplied material for a breeding supplement to be included in WBFSH's *Breeding News*. This supplement was circulated to the HSI Board members for their information. This supplement was distributed throughout the 2014 WEG in Normandy and on the *Breeding News* subscriber lists.

The Director of Breeding & Programmes advised that the HSI Coaching and Breeding Conference 2014 will take place at Cavan Equestrian Centre on 29<sup>th</sup> October and that places are filling well.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

The Chairman went through the draft document '*Reaching New Heights, Report of the Irish Sport Horse Strategy Committee*' A number of comments from the Board were noted.

The Chairman reported that the Minister was fully engaged on the strategy and that he was hopeful that some additional funding would be available if a clear strategy was in place.

### **A.O.B.**

The CEO drew the Board members attention to a draft agreement between the Olympic Council of Ireland and Horse Sport Ireland regarding participation in the 2016 Olympics. A meeting is due to take place between Horse Sport Ireland and the Olympic Council in the coming weeks to finalise the document. The CEO asked the Board to revert if they had any comments on the document.

**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.**