

## Executive Summary

### Board of Directors Meeting

20 July 2020



1. Finance: Audit being undertaken this week, with final accounts then being produced and signed off by the end of August. The annual report is now in draft format ahead of circulation to the Board. Budget savings continue to be identified across the business to minimise the impact of the pandemic on the reserves. Forecast loss for 2020 is currently £650k, including the cost of horse registration extensions.
2. Membership: There has been a positive response from members to the horse registration extension activated in recent weeks. Board has provisionally approved additional concessions for Scotland and Wales, due to ongoing restrictions that have prevented competition activity resuming in July, pending further announcements from the devolved governments at the end of the month. There have been some encouraging signs of recovery for membership and horse registrations, with an increase in renewals during late June and early July. The resumption of competitions in England has started well, with venues and participants adhering to government restrictions and utilising BD guidance.
3. Governance: Due to the impact of Covid-19, the Board approved an extension to all technical and regional committee appointments until the end of 2020. Recruitment will recommence in the autumn, with representatives commencing their roles from January 2021 onwards.
4. Marketing: Projects that were put on hold during lockdown are now to be re-activated, with the new five year strategy and BD brand refresh launched at the AGM in October. Other initiatives, such as BD media channel and clothing partner will also be rolled out in the autumn.
5. Commercial: Positive work continues with sponsors and partners, who have been supportive of plans to run a rescheduled Winter Championships, revised format for a summer Para Festival and Young Horse Championship series. The Board agreed that schedules should continue to be available online only for the remainder of the year, rather than included in the magazine, in order to minimise production and distribution costs and counteract the decrease in advertising revenue.
6. HR: To deliver the resumption of competition and training activity, BD returned to 75% capacity for staffing levels by the end of June, which will further increase to 90% by the end of July. The remaining staff will return from furlough leave on 3 August.
7. Sport Operations: Winter Championships have been confirmed to take place from 17-23 August at Hartpury. Approval given to move the Combined Training Championship to a shorter season in a single calendar year, in line with other competitions, starting from 1 January 2021. Decision was taken to cancel the Senior Home International for 2020 due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19.
8. Para-Equestrian: Based on feedback from riders and proposals submitted by the Para Committee, agreement has been given to run a Para Summer Festival at Solihull in August, to celebrate the return of Para competition at all levels, including Gold, Silver and Bronze riders.
9. International Teams: The FEI Under 21 and Under 25 European Championships are now due to take place in Hungary in August, with five riders approved to compete across the age groups as individuals on a self-funded basis. Work continues on staging a U21 National Championship later this year, with venue and dates currently under review before a final decision is taken.

10. Young Horses: A BD Young Horse and Pony Championship is to be staged in early October, with qualifiers held at various venues previously due to host YH competitions. A full list of dates will be released to members imminently. Final selection for the World Breeding Championships at Verden will take place in October, with FEI level classes incorporated within plans for the BD Young Horse Championships to facilitate the entry process.
11. Judges: Online judge training activity has been very well received in the regions and is an area that will be further developed. An update was also provided on the judge education project, with Judge Educator training, followed by evaluations for both Tutor Judges and Judge Educators, taking place in July. Work on the non-technical judges' portfolio is also nearing completion.
12. Youth: Rider applications are open for the Foundation Academies, with a good response to date and further applications expected as we approach the 19 August deadline. YPP, DiSE and AASE programmes are also now open for applications. Three levels of the Horse Care programme are now in operation, with over 500 registrations received to date.
13. Training events: Proposal is being developed to run the major training events as a combined two-day showcase, with the first day focused on judging and the second on training. This would offer a flexible approach to delivering elements of both the Judges Convention and National Convention within current COVID restrictions, while minimising the financial risk to BD. Capacity would have to be limited to comply with social distancing, so a pay-to-view option would also be available for members to watch the event online, as an alternative to attending in person. The Principles of Judging Seminar will not take place in 2020, with the planned content carried forward to 2021 instead.
14. FEI: Documentation around proposed rule revisions for equine and human anti-doping regulations has been circulated to the relevant Directors for review. The FEI General Assembly in November will now take place online.
15. AGM: The Annual General Meeting will now take place on the evening of Tuesday 20 October 2020, at the Windmill Hotel in Meriden. The AGM will be live streamed for the first time, for those members unable to attend in person, with questions submitted in advance.
16. Date of Next Board Meeting: Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 October 2020.