

Executive Summary

Board of Directors Meeting

20 October 2020

1. Finance: Annual Report posted on BD website as part of the Notice of AGM. 2020 accounts currently forecasting an overall loss of £275,000, subject to the impact of lockdown restrictions, although savings will continue to be identified across the business where possible. First draft of 2021 budget outlined and discussed.
2. Membership: There has been a good number of members choosing to return or renew during July, August and September, although this has inevitably started to slow down now as we approach the winter months and with the threat of further lockdown restrictions. Overall we have 1,500 fewer paying members than at this time in 2019.
3. Governance: A recruitment process has been undertaken to fill a number of Regional Committee positions. Applications closed on 29 October and interviews are due to be held during November. Board informed that the posts of Training Director and Para Director will be up for election in 2021 due to the end of two terms for Paul Hayler and Julie Frizzell respectively.
4. Marketing: With the ongoing uncertainty caused by the pandemic, Board agreed to further delay the launch of the next five-year strategy, including the new brand identity and other commercial initiatives, until the 2021 Winter Championships.
5. Commercial: Positive work continues with our sponsors and partners, with the majority of contractual obligations now delivered. A number of new sponsor partnerships have been agreed and this is seen as a huge positive in what are very challenging times. The use of live streaming for events where we are unable to allow spectators has been very well received, and we have been able to engage a much larger audience. This is something we will look to continue to develop in the future.
6. HR: Discussions are ongoing regarding the organisation structure and the need to ensure that all operational overheads are controlled effectively during and post-COVID. Board authorised two working groups to review resourcing levels at central and regional level.
7. IT: Initial breakdown of costs for Phase IV of the IT transformation project were discussed. Detailed scoping of each element remains ongoing. This work can then be prioritised and included in the budgets for 2021, subject to Board approval at the December meeting.
8. Operational Plan: The first draft of the 2021 Operational Plan was circulated and discussed. Final version will be presented at the December Board meeting for sign-off.
9. Sport Operations: Lockdowns affecting local areas and devolved nations are being constantly monitored and contingency plans put in place. All activity in Wales is currently suspended due to the "fire break" put in place by the Welsh Government until 9 November. This has caused a particular problem for the Wales Quest Final and alternative arrangements will be made post-lockdown. Scenario planning based on the potential impact of further restrictions remains ongoing.

10. Para-Equestrian: The summer festival held in August was a success, with over 170 entries over the two days surpassing previous record numbers. The Para Winter schedule is currently being prepared.
11. International Teams: Selection has been completed for the World Breeding Championships at Verden in December. A total of 52 entries have been received for the U21 Championships at Vale View at the end of October. Planning for the recently announced Grand Prix National Championships at Hartpury on 21 & 22 December is progressing well.
12. Judges: Judge Education Project continues to make good progress, with the tutor judge and judge educator evaluations now completed. Proposal for a revamp of the Test Committee was accepted and a proposed meeting date during November or December will be circulated.
13. Youth: Foundation Academies are underway, with a total of 58 riders involved. Youth Survey being formulated, to be circulated to all Youth members by the end of November. The Young Professionals Programme has 15 riders involved this year. Horse Care programmes continue to be well received, although challenges remain on the delivery of some of the practical elements due to the impact of the pandemic.
14. Training: National Convention confirmed as being promoted as online event only, with no in person attendance. Live streaming to be provided by Horse & Country on a subscription basis for a weekend pass and access on demand, with a discount for BD members. Presenters confirmed as Stephen Clarke, Ferdi Eilberg, Peter Storr and Clive Halsall, hosted over two days at The Cotswold Club on Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 November.
15. BEF: Recruitment process for a new permanent CEO is now underway, with the aim to confirm the appointment by early 2021. Funding submission for Paris cycle has been sent to UK Sport, although additional contribution from ODs will be necessary. Uncertainty over Brexit and the impact on horse movement continues, although discussions with government remain ongoing. Full details and guidance for members will be issued as soon as arrangements are finalised.
16. FEI: FEI have updated their COVID protocols. The FEI calendar for 2021 is taking shape but with caveats attached around major international events due to the pandemic. A number of organisers are already submitting reserve dates for 2021 due to the ongoing uncertainty.
17. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8 December 2020.