

Executive Summary

Board of Directors Meeting

15 June 2021

1. Finance: The 2020 accounts are due to be audited in early July, so the final figures are being confirmed ahead of this. £35,000 of adjustments have been made to the 2020 accounts since April. Due to the impact of horse registration extensions and the deferred loss of income, the current forecast showing a six-figure deficit for 2021. The insurance tender process has now been completed, with KBIS offered the contract to act as broker of record for British Dressage, with effect from 1 July 2021.
2. Membership: Current membership stands at 16,578 as of 31 May 2021, up from 15,277 at the end of March. This is very positive progress and takes membership numbers back to where they were pre-pandemic at the end of February 2020. Marketing activity will continue to focus on reactivating lapsed members, as well as attracting new members.
3. Governance: The nomination deadline for Para Director and Training Director was Tuesday 4 May 2021. Applications have been reviewed and candidates interviewed by the Nominations Committee and will be formally announced via the BD Magazine and website in early July. The result of the electronic ballot is now binding and not subject to ratification at the AGM.
4. Marketing: Work on the rebrand project continues, with the launch of the new BD strategy, all new printed material, branded clothing, National Championships ticketing and Horse & Country media partnership due to be rolled out by the end of this month, to coincide with the Winter Championships. Winter sponsors have been a focus throughout the rescheduled Regionals and Area Festivals in May and in the lead up to the Championships this month.
5. Human Resources: There are three new members of the BD team, with the new Training & Education Assistant (Mimi Baynes), Sport Operations Officer (Nikki Birt) and Digital Marketing Officer (Alice Daish) all starting in the last two months. The recruitment for a Youth Performance Manager is currently in progress, with interviews scheduled for next week.
6. Regional: The rollout of the regional restructure is now complete and work on the transition from the current event booking system for BD training is well underway.
7. IT: Enhancements and upgrades to our internal systems are due for completion by the end of June 2021. Planning has commenced for next phase of IT development, due to be scoped and delivered for testing during Q3 and Q4 of 2021, for a live launch in late 2021 / early 2022.
8. 2021 Operational Plan: Updated version was presented to the Board, including progress ratings across each objective by department.
9. Sport Operations: Entry and starter numbers are very positive and demonstrate that there is plenty of pent-up demand, with members eager to return to competition after the latest lockdown. Competition numbers are reasonably evenly spread across all regions.

10. Sport Operations: With the latest four-week extension to Covid restrictions by the UK government, the Winter Championship will operate under current protocols, behind closed doors without spectators. Riders are able to be accompanied by a maximum of five people in their competitor bubble. Plans for the National Championships at Somerford Park in September were discussed, including site plans and draft timetable.
11. Para-Equestrian: The Gold Semi-Final and Festival were very successful and well attended. Unfortunately, the numbers for the Para Winter Championships were affected by a clash with a World Class selection event at Wellington. Myerscough therefore had to reduce from a five-day event to a three-day show, although it was still full, with each day seeing excellent numbers across all levels.
12. International Teams: Selection policies have all been updated and published. U21 European Championship teams have been announced in recent weeks, but travel to and from the event is proving to be problematic due to ongoing Covid restrictions across Europe. Plans are progressing well for the Olympics and Paralympics, with final selection due to take place in late June and early July respectively.
13. Judges: The section of the technical modules in the new judge education framework, focusing on the specific movements, is now complete for non-FEI levels. The tutor orientation for these sessions took place last week, with excellent feedback from those in attendance. The current workshop dates are scheduled to run from July 2021, with dates confirmed in the diary up until the end of December.
14. Training: The Test Committee have submitted a number of proposals for a review and rationalisation of tests. Board agreed that this work should continue and be presented to the Sport Operations Committee and Judges Committee, before coming back to the August Board meeting for approval. The Coaches survey has just been circulated and replies are starting to come back in. The National Convention will take place in the earlier slot of 6 & 7 November 2021 as a combined online and ticketed event. Kyra Kyrkland and Catharine Dufour have now been confirmed as the guest presenters.
15. Youth: Foundation Academy riders have now had chance to attend at least one session in-person, whilst also continuing the online delivery of certain elements. The National Academy camp will now take place over three days rather than four.
16. Youth: There has been a change to the funding arrangements for the Diploma in Sport Excellence (DiSE) programme, with a reduction in the number of places allocated by Sport England. The Board agreed to continue to support the programme for the coming year, with a full review of DiSE, AASE and YPP to be carried out by the autumn in order to formulate alternative plans that will deliver a more integrated approach from 2022 onwards.
17. BEF: Travel restrictions continue to limit opportunities for international riders to compete overseas. UK is now on the red list in a number of European countries. While elite sport athlete exemption status continues to apply in the Netherlands and Germany, this is no longer the case in France, which is creating further problems.
18. FEI: Olympics are now in the last few weeks of preparation, with comprehensive Covid protocols in place. Definite entries deadline is 2 July 2021. Horses will then go into quarantine from 4 July onwards, with riders and staff completing regular PCR and Lateral Flow tests being completed prior to departure.
19. Date of next meeting: Thursday 5 August 2021.