

Board of Directors Meeting Executive Summary 18 and 19 April 2023

1. Finance: The 2022 accounts audit fieldwork has been completed, with no issues identified which require further investigation. The final audit report is due to be presented and signed off at the June Board meeting. The first quarter of 2023 has seen a strong financial outturn, with a surplus against budget recorded, mainly due to continued strong membership numbers. The 2023 budget is showing an overall deficit, but this is due to agreed exceptional items such as IT amortisation and allocation of Designated Funds from the Reserves. An update on investments and cash deposits was received, with a full review due before the end of 2023.
2. Membership: As of 31 March 2023, membership stands at a further record high of 18,589 with horse registrations at 17,030. The figures have remained buoyant over the past 12 months, which is encouraging, although participation numbers continue to be monitored closely as the cost-of-living challenges continue. To help support organisers and venues, an extension to the starter levy subsidy until the end of 2023 was discussed and agreed.
3. Marketing: A review of our flagship training and education events, including the Principles of Judging, Young Horse Forum, and National Convention has been undertaken, with plans underway to improve and enhance each element. Rotheras Solicitors have been confirmed as our new legal partner and they will take over the member legal helpline provision with immediate effect.
4. Human Resources: Recruitment is ongoing for the position of Commercial Manager. Ellie Mayner has joined the team as Marketing & Sponsorship Officer. Recommendations from the Remuneration Committee were discussed and approved.
5. Governance: A new risk framework and updated risk register were presented and adopted, following a full review and input from an external risk specialist. The election and appointment process for the Sport Operations Director, Finance Director and Business Development Director is underway, with a deadline of 5 May for nominations to be received. Day two of the meeting was focused on Equine Welfare and Sustainability, with a presentation received from White Griffin.
6. IT: The system and security update for BD Online has been completed successfully. Further projects on BD Online are being scoped with our IT partners, including Member Communication upgrades, results APIs with third party providers, and Quest leader boards.
7. Sport Operations: Numbers attending the Regionals and Area Festivals during February and March were strong, mirrored by entries received for Quest and the Premier Leagues at Myerscough and Addington. Updates on the Silver Working Group were received, with a full report and recommendations due to be presented at the June meeting. Proposals from the Test Committee were approved and the timeline for implementation agreed, with further research and development due to take place in the coming months.
8. Training & Education: Judge assessment dates have been finalised for May 2023, while dates for the autumn will be confirmed in the coming months. Coach renewals are now underway as it has been over 12 months since the programme was launched. The online hub is live and the CPD working party have produced a skills and competency framework. A successful two-day workforce development event was held in mid-March at the British Showjumping training centre. The Principles of Judging Seminar was also very well received.

9. Regional: The Regional Reps Meeting took place in early March, including presentations from Jon Downer (JDA) and Roly Owers (World Horse Welfare). Date has been confirmed for the 2024 meeting. Proposals were discussed around hosting a Volunteer Awards event in the autumn to celebrate BD's 25 Year Anniversary.

10. International: U21 results in Le Mans were very positive, with the Young Rider team securing a win and the Juniors taking the silver medal position, while the Pony riders delivered promising results to finish just outside of the podium places. Introductory sessions on Zoom have been delivered for riders and support staff.

11. BEF: Update provided on the recent BEF Council meeting, attended by the BD CEO and Chair. The recently published report on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion within equestrianism by ADK was also discussed, along with the latest status of the sustainability project.

12. FEI: The FEI Sports Forum is due to be held during w/c 24 April, with equine welfare being the focus on day one, including a presentation of the second report from the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission.

Date of next meeting: 12 June 2023.