



Board of Directors Meeting Executive Summary 3 August 2023

- 1. Finance:** 2023 continues to show a strong financial performance to date, mainly driven by the positive membership and horse registration numbers, which remain above projected levels, plus an increase in gift aid contributions. End of year projections have been reforecast, which has resulted in a reduced deficit position, once the Designated Funds investment and IT amortisation have been factored in. An updated Purchase and Procurement policy was presented and accepted.
- 2. Membership:** As of 31 July 2023, membership stands at 18,508 and horse registrations at 17,012, which is a marginal decrease from the figures at the end of June, in line with normal seasonal fluctuations. The new Quest Winter League membership package was launched on 1 August and has already resulted in 17 new members joining BD for the first time.
- 3. Marketing:** Our new classifieds partnership with HorseQuest was launched on 30 June and has been well-received. A new three-year sponsorship agreement with PetPlan is in the process of being finalised, while an extension to the current contract has also been agreed with NAF. Strong ticket sales were reported for the National Convention, with VIP weekend packages now sold-out.
- 4. Human Resources:** Recruitment for a Commercial Manager remains ongoing. Emily Willard will be joining the Training & Education team from 21 August, while Emma Bayliss will take up her new role as Project Delivery Lead from 3 October. The Board approved the provision of an Employee Assistance Programme for all staff, to support mental health and well-being.
- 5. Governance:** Voting is open for the Sport Operations Director position, with all eligible members emailed and invited to vote. The online ballot closes on 1 September. The BD AGM is confirmed for Wednesday 18 October at Aintree Racecourse, when regional awards will also be presented.
- 6. National Championships:** CEO provided an update on the planning and budget for the National Championships. Further negotiation on costs have reduced overheads slightly, but the event will still remain heavily subsidised. Wider discussion on the future of the Championships took place, with a working group to be established to report back to the Board with suggestions on how the event could continue to evolve in a way that is cost-effective and manageable.
- 7. Sport Operations:** A total of 1,942 competitions have been run from 1 January to 31 July 2023, compared to 1,851 in the same period for 2022. The latest progress on the test project was provided, with the timeline for the transition period amended to allow further time for development and review. The updated equine welfare policies and procedures document now incorporates feedback from World Horse Welfare and a final draft will be circulated to the Board for approval.
- 8. Training & Education:** BD Coach packages continue to be well received, with a renewal rate of 95%. In Para, 30 Judges are due to come forward for assessment this autumn, while 13 coaches have been upskilled so far, with a further 12 due to take the training in September. Dates for the Foundation Academies were confirmed for October / November 2023. The Sports Science event took place on Monday 24 July, with a total of 55 attendees. The date for next year's Principles of Judging Seminar has been confirmed for 23 & 24 March 2024.

9. **Para:** Proposed changes to the Para class at the National Championships were accepted, with further consultation to follow. If agreed, these will be implemented from 2024 onwards. The use of joined reins at able-bodied competition was discussed and a proposal accepted for introduction in January 2024. Para Academy nominations closed on 1 August, with coach recruitment close to completion.

10. **International:** The Board was delighted to acknowledge the success achieved by our athletes and support staff at the FEI Young Rider, Junior, and Pony European Championships over recent weeks, where four medals were won, including two individual gold and two team bronze medals, as well as a number of personal best performances.

11. **Regional:** The Youth Inter-Regionals at Vale View EC and Youth Home Nations at Sparsholt College were held successfully, with the Senior Home Nations due to take place at Kelsall Hill in late September.

11. **BEF:** Board discussed and agreed a nomination for the BD Nominated Director, to succeed Lotte Olsen, who completes her second term on the BEF Board in October. Updates on EDI, sustainability and horse welfare projects were provided by the CEO.

12. **FEI:** Discussion on the FEI rules review was held, with feedback due to be submitted to the BEF by 10 August.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10 October 2023.