

Board of Directors Meeting

Executive Summary

10 October 2023



1. **Finance:** The year-end forecast is currently showing a surplus, mainly due to the strong membership and horse registration numbers, which remain well ahead of budget. However, once the money set aside for Designated Funds projects and IT depreciation is included, we may end 2023 with a small deficit. The updated investment policy was reviewed and approved. A first draft of the 2024 budget was presented. Details on Designated Funds activity to date was received along with current expenditure recorded against these projects.

2. **Membership:** As of 30 September 2023, BD membership stands at 18,779 (including 156 new members joining the Quest Winter League) and horse registrations are at 17,291, which are both record figures. Membership pricing policy for 2024 was discussed and agreed.

3. **Marketing:** LeMieux has agreed a three-year extension to their title sponsorship of the National Championships, with Bret Willson, Fairfax Saddles and BETTALIFE also agreeing extended terms as class sponsors. Petplan Equine have also agreed a new three-year deal to sponsor the Area Festival Championships across the summer and winter seasons, while NAF has extended their title sponsorship of the Winter Championships to include the first year at Addington EC in 2024. Ticket sales for the National Convention are strong with Saturday getting close to a sell-out.

4. **Human Resources:** We have welcomed a number of new starters in recent months, with Molly Bishton (Membership Administrator), Emily Willard (Training & Education Administrator), Emma Bayliss (Project Delivery Lead), and Rachel Murray (Training & Education Officer) joining the head office team. Mimi Baynes (Training & Education) and Louise Garnham-Tierney (Membership) have moved on to new roles outside of BD.

5. **Governance:** The Board were updated on the Sport Operations Director election, with the result due to be formally confirmed at the AGM on Wednesday 18 October. The reappointment of the Finance Director and Business Development Director for their second terms will also be confirmed. The AGM will take place at Aintree Racecourse, commencing at 6.00pm, followed by the 25th Anniversary Celebration Awards. All are welcome to attend in-person or view the live stream. With Clair Moir standing down from the BD Board a year early to take up the Member Nominated Director position on the BEF Board, Hannah Moody was unanimously appointed by the Board as Interim BD Youth Director, until a formal election can take place for this position in 2024.

6. **National Championships:** Opportunity was given to discuss feedback received to date about the 2023 National Championships. The results of the competitors survey will also feed into the review process. Overall, the event went very well and has now become established in its home at Somerford Park, although the negative weather forecast for the week had an impact on attendance, with the spectator numbers marginally down on the previous two years.

7. **Sport Operations:** The rule changes for 2024 were reviewed and signed-off for inclusion in the 2024 Members' Handbook. A review of the Associated Championships has been conducted based on member survey feedback around the format and placement of venues. Board agreed to a new venue for 2024 and potentially 2025, subject to review. Clothing and dress code guidance was discussed, with revised wording agreed for 2024. Headline participation figures for the Area Festivals and Regionals across 2022 and 2023 were presented and discussed. The new tests have now been signed off, subject to final proof-reading and amends, and are due to be published on 1 December 2023. The Board agreed that all tests would count as qualifiers from 1 July 2024.

8: **Training & Education:** Updates on progress across a number of T&E programmes was provided. These included judge and steward education, CPD support for FEI officials, the National Convention timetable, and Coach CPD activity. A total of 49 candidates have enrolled on a BDCC course in 2023, 22 have been assessed, with a pass rate of over 90%. There are 48 athletes on the BD Youth Foundation and National Academies (24 on each), with 20 learners registered on the BD Apprenticeship scheme in the first year, across the groom, business, and marketing routes.

9. **Para:** Plans for CPEDI fixtures for 2024 were presented, which remain subject to further discussion with the venues and World Class before next year's dates can be finalised. Approval was given to move the Gold Semi Final to Hartpury in August, to run alongside the Bronze & Silver Championships, and extend the qualification period for Gold riders to six months. Wellington will host a CPEDI alongside the CDI in June instead.

10. **International:** The Board formally noted their congratulations to all of the riders and support teams involved in the European Championships at Senior, Para, and Youth levels. A total haul of 14 medals, across four different age groups and categories, is a fantastic achievement and a credit to all involved.

11. **Regional:** With the current regional structure having been in place for three years, the Board agreed to review the structure and delivery model during the first quarter of 2024. This will include evaluation of the current membership and participation numbers in each region, as well as data gathered from the competitor survey conducted at the end of 2022.

12. **BEF:** BD's proposed candidate for the Member Nominated Director position has been formally ratified by the BEF Nominations Committee and Board, with Claire Moir taking over from Lotte Olsen from November 2023. The Board extended their sincere thanks to Lotte for her commitment to this role since 2017. The CEO provided updates on the BEF Sustainability, Equine Welfare and EDI projects, with the launch of the sustainability strategy now expected at the end of November.

13. **FEI:** The FEI rules revisions are due to be voted on by delegates at the General Assembly in November. Equine welfare is likely to be high on the agenda, with the EEWC presenting their third report. The Board agreed its collective approach to these subjects and how to communicate this to stakeholder groups. The BEF CEO will be present at the General Assembly in Mexico City, with the BD CEO joining remotely.

14. **BD Medal of Honour:** Nominees for the BD Medal of Honour were discussed and agreed. Presentations will take place at the National Convention in December.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6 December 2023.