

## Board of Directors Meeting

### Executive Summary

6 December 2023

1. **Finance:** The year end forecast shows a surplus, due in large part to the buoyant membership and horse registration figures. A working draft of 2024 budget was shared with and approved by the Board. The Board agreed an extension of the starter levy subsidy for venues, which will now run until the end of March in 2024.
2. **Membership:** As of 30 November 2023, BD Membership stands at 19,026 and there are 17,473 Horse Registrations. The new membership pricing policy was released since the last Board meeting and has been well received by the membership.
3. **Marketing:** Attendance at the National Convention was excellent, with almost 1,000 people in attendance each day and over 1,400 unique visitors over the weekend. There were some issues with the sound, so all attendees have been offered free access to the online coverage as a gesture of goodwill. Proposals have been received for media partnership and a new agreement will be negotiated for 2024.
4. **Human Resources:** Amii Dyne (Executive Assistant) has recently returned from maternity leave. Claire Preston (Financial Controller) and Alex Phillips (Development Officer North and East) have left their positions within BD and both vacancies will be advertised shortly.
5. **Governance:** The Board have agreed to move to four Board meetings per annum, with ad hoc meetings as required. The new meeting structure will be phased in during the course of 2024, with a shorter agenda for the February meeting via Zoom.
6. **National Championships:** The site plan for the Winter Championships was viewed by the Board. CEO will be working closely with Show Direct and the venue to ensure that the event runs smoothly.
7. **Sport Operations:** The new tests, 2024 members' handbook and rule change synopsis went live on Friday 1st December. Overall, the feedback has been very positive. Diagrammatic versions of the new tests will be available from early 2024. There will be a six-month transition period and old tests will be archived 1 Jan 2025.
8. **Participation:** All Para / Quest and Combined Training have seen an increase in participation at their respective Championships, while the Area Festivals and Premier Leagues have seen a slight drop in numbers. Further analysis is underway to fully evaluate and understand the underlying trends.
9. **National Convention:** The BD National Convention was held in November at Addington. Despite some operational challenges, particularly on the first day, the overall feedback on the content in the arena has been very positive. On demand live streaming coverage from H&C+ will be launched next week.

10. **Training & Education:** Further updates were given across a number of education programmes. 776 judges are currently registered on programmes for the Judge Education System, with a total of 1,058 registrations made since the launch in August 2020. 49 candidates have enrolled on BDCC courses in 2023. The Intermediate Certificate (Tier 4) online modules have launched, and Tier 5 will be available next year. Youth Academies have concluded for 2023 with positive feedback from the athletes and workforce.
11. **Para:** The prize money allocation for Para classes will be discussed at the first Para Committee meeting on 1 February 2024, and a proposal will be submitted to the February Board meeting.
12. **International:** The Olympic Selection Policy has now been approved, and the Paralympic selection policy is imminent. CDI, CPEDI and U25 policies will all be signed off and published prior to Christmas.
13. **Regional:** A regional review will be taking place in the early part of 2024. Key stakeholders, Development Officers and Regional Committees will be involved in shaping the future direction, along with feedback from member surveys.
14. **BEF:** The CEO provided updates on Equine Welfare and Sustainability. The Horses in Society Conference in London on 4 December was a huge success and provided an excellent opportunity to collaborate with colleagues across the horse sector. The joint BD / BS Sustainability Strategy will be published on 8 December 2023.
15. **FEI:** The FEI General Assembly took place in Mexico City in November. The BEF Chair and CEO attended in person, with the BD CEO accessing remotely. The rule change relating to nosebands has been deferred until 1 January 2025, to allow for further consultation and trials for the universal measuring tool before it is introduced.

**Date of next meeting:** 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.