



## Board of Directors Meeting

### Executive Summary

29 February 2024

1. **Finance:** The draft year-end accounts were discussed. Work is continuing via the Interim Financial Controller, with oversight provided by the CEO and Finance Director. The audit start date has been confirmed as 18 March 2024. The final draft of the 2024 budget was discussed and approved. This shows a small deficit, prior to deduction of the below the line costs linked to IT amortisation, Designated Funds, and the starter levy subsidy, which will come to an end on 31 March 2024.
2. **Membership:** As of the end of January 2024, we reached 18,953 members and 17,251 horse registrations. This excludes the 205 Quest Winter League (QWL) members, whose membership concluded on 31 December 2023; however, over a third of these members have now upgraded to Club or Full membership.
3. **Marketing:** There are several sponsor agreements due for renewal during 2024. This will be a key focus in coming months to negotiate further extensions with our current event partners and to seek further commercial opportunities.
4. **Human Resources:** We have made three new appointments: a Financial Controller who joins BD in mid-April, a Marketing Executive who starts in mid-March, and an internal promotion to Development Officer for the N&W region, who commences their new role on 4 March. The recruitment processes for an Office Administrator and Sport Operations Officer are in the final stages.
5. **Governance:** The timeline for the election of a BD Youth Director was outlined and agreed, with nominations opening in late March. The 2024 Operational Plan and Designated Funds Action Plan were also discussed and agreed.
6. **Sport Operations:** Participation figures for the Regionals and Area Festivals were shared, with a small increase in entries expected from 2023 to 2024. An update was provided on the work being carried out by the Silver Working Group, with proposals and recommendations to be tabled at the April Board meeting. The Organisers' portal launched was in December 2023, with 127 venues already accessing the site.
7. **Training & Education:** The Principles of Dressage Seminar has almost sold out, with only a small number of tickets available. The Chair of the Test Committee, Jenny Ward, has delivered sessions to provide updates and upskill coaches and officials on the new tests and relevant changes. Formal Board approval was provided to invest in a new online e-learning platform.

8. **Para:** The Para Winter Championships held at Myerscough had a 28% increase in entries year on year. Board formally approved the recommendation from the Para Committee for Para prize money to follow non-disabled rules and pay per class, rather than by grade. Update was provided on projects linked to hidden disabilities and the Sunflower Scheme, with training undertaken by staff and key volunteers. Further activity is being developed for the remainder of 2024.
9. **International:** Planning well underway for Paris 2024, with international competition schedules being agreed with World Class and riders.
10. **Regional:** The annual Regional Representatives meeting is due to take place on Monday 4 March in Meriden, with good attendance expected across all regions.
11. **BEF:** The CEO provided updates on the “Horses for All”, Equine Welfare and Sustainability projects. BEF Charter for the Horse has been drafted and agreed by member bodies, this is due to be launched imminently.
12. **FEI:** BD has submitted feedback on the FEI welfare proposals, further details will be discussed at the FEI Sports Forum in April.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 25 April 2024.