

Equestrian Federation of Australia Ltd.

ABN 19 077 455 755

Summary of business conducted at a meeting of the Board of Directors held on

Sunday, 4 February 2007, at the *Holiday inn, Sydney Airport*



1 Meeting Administration

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Present: Geoff Sinclair - Chairman
Kerry Brydon
Mary Seefried
Peter Hickson

Apologies: Alexi Kentish

In attendance: Franz Venhaus - CEO
Siobhan Laphorne – Minute Secretary

For Eventing presentation only:

Jim Dunn – Chair, National Eventing Committee
Sharmayne Spencer – Member, National Eventing Committee

1.2 Minutes of meeting held 18 November 2006

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

2 Policy Development and Planning Review

2.1 Voting Procedures for Committees and Panels

Background: The model currently used is based on the IOC election rules; however, as there are so few shareholders/electors in the EFA, this method is laborious and may even not give a result that actually reflects the shareholders' desires. The CEO proposed a new method that allows voting to achieve a result in one round.

The Board resolved to accept the CEO's recommendation. The EFA Membership & Committee By-Laws will be amended accordingly.

2.2 Affiliation with the Australian Carriage Driving Society (ACDS)

Background: In 2005, the ACDS decided not to renew its affiliation with the EFA. The EFA Driving Groups that had existed in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia were then allowed to form an EFA National Carriage Driving Committee (NCDC), which started functioning in May 2006. There have been approaches by the ACDS with proposals for a cooperative arrangement. The NCDC has now reviewed terms of affiliation that could form the basis for discussions.

The Board endorsed the terms and asked the CEO to write to the ACDS with the new proposal. This is also published on the EFA web.

2.3 Preparing to Review the Strategic Plan

Background: The EFA finalised and submitted its 2005-2009 Strategic Plan to the Australian Sports Commission after the 2005 EFA National Forum. The Plan now needs to go through a formal review.

The Board agreed that there should be an overall review of the current Strategic Plan. There should then be an ongoing part-by part discussion at each meeting. The April 2007 meeting will be moved to Sunday, so Saturday can be used as an additional planning session.

The Board asked the National Office to prepare templates for National Sport Committee strategic plans and a reporting structure including timelines that will help Committees direct their efforts. The templates should also indicate how the plan links to the wider EFA Strategic Plan. The Board agreed that they should assist the committees by indicating what items in their plans are of priority to the Board, and also which are achievable and provide return on investment.

2.4 Functions and Performance of Directors

The Board discussed the merits or otherwise of Directors having specific “portfolios” but agreed that such a move was not in the interest of good governance. This is because the Board as a whole is responsible for its decisions and individual directors should not defer to “specialists” among them.

The Board also agreed to carry out an internal assessment of its overall performance and that of its individual Directors at the end of this year. The following year this performance appraisal would be carried out by an external consultant.

As a related issue, the CEO requested the Board’s direction on how to implement the change to the Committee By-Laws relating to the maximum six-year term for National Committee Members. Shall the six years be counted from the start of the latest committee term (January 2006), or should it be applied in a “retrospective” manner, including any previous terms before the by-law was amended?

The Board requested the National Office to review the current makeup of the committees and analyse the possible outcomes of each method of implementation. A decision would then be made.

3 Specific Planned Items

3.1 Board Meeting Schedule 2007-08 - Meetings with NSCs

Dressage will be asked to come to the June meeting, as they should have had their first meeting as a new Committee by then. The August meeting was moved to Saturday, 18 August, due to the Olympic Test Event in Hong Kong. Carriage Driving will be requested to attend in August. Vaulting and Para-Equestrian will be requested to attend in September

The 2007 EFA Forum will be scheduled for Sydney.

Planned dates for face-to-face Board meetings in 2007 are:

- Saturday, 28 April
- Sunday, 17 June
- Saturday, 18 August
- Sunday, 23 September

3.2 Meeting with Eventing Committee Representatives (9:30AM)

Background: The Board has invited representatives of National Sport Committees to schedule one of their two annual meetings to coincide with a Board meeting. Each NDC can then send two or three representatives to meet with the Board to provide an update on the sport and to raise and issues that require attention. On this occasion, Committee Chair Jim Dunn and Committee Member Sharmayne Spencer attended for the National Eventing Committee.

The Chairman welcomed the representatives and congratulated the Committee on the success of Eventing at WEG. Mr Dunn noted other successes including Trans-Tasman and Young Rider performances.

Mr Dunn and Ms Spencer gave a PowerPoint presentation. The four areas mentioned by Glenn Tasker from Swimming Australia at the 2006 EFA National Forum were considered key items by the Eventing committee.

High Performance – is running quite well

Sport Development – is improving, Eventing is growing and improving

Business Development – is an area the Committee recognises is important

People Development – an under-developed area – could be improved in a number of ways from recruiting recreational riders and amateur riders from other sports (day members). Volunteers and Officials and potential committee members may be found among this section.

The Committee is also developing strategies to recruit **additional FEI Officials** to shore up the current small and ageing group.

- New pathways for elite riders to become Judges.
- Subsidise costs to FEI Officials (clinic fees or travel costs). Suggest levy on FEI Eventing Horse and Rider Registrations.

- The venue for clinics may need to be moved around from Melbourne in future.
- Frequency of clinics – annual rotation between NZL and AUS, however courses cannot cater for enough places to keep all the Officials re-accredited, as well as accredit new ones. May need to request greater numbers than the usual 20, or more events.

The use of experienced **media personnel** has been discussed for years. This is a complex area that requires expert assistance.

The EFA Chairman requested a more detailed plan including the main outcomes, number of events and riders, the money to be raised and the method, the timeline for achievement, and what is to be achieved.

3.3 Review of Finances to 31 January 2006

The Directors reviewed the financials and agreed that overall they are in good stead.

3.4 Outcomes from the National Forum

The Board agreed to review the outcomes from the Forum as part of the strategy session scheduled with the next meeting.

4 Information

4.1 CEO's Report

The CEO reported on a number of activities and meetings since the last Board meeting. The Board accepted the CEO's report, which included an update on the move of the office to the new premises.

4.2 High Performance Manager's Report

The Board accepted the written report. The CEO updated the Board on the Squad Agreements, and particularly the ongoing situation with issues surrounding the media clause.

Similar clauses from Triathlon, Water Polo, Cycling, Hockey and Yachting agreements have been distributed to Directors for comparison.

5 General Business (including Business arising from last meeting)

5.1 Adelaide International Horse Trials

There was a meeting of stakeholders in late January, which resulted in a number of suggestions and actions. The 2007 Adelaide Horse Trials are important for the preparation, the qualification and the selection of AUS-based riders for the 2008 Olympics.

The Board will be informed of the ongoing progress.

5.2 Equestrian TV Production/Coverage

The EFA has had an approach from a production company for at least one series of programs. There is also an ABC-TV initiative that requires further input from the EFA.

5.3 Affiliation of RDAA/Para-Equestrian Australia

An affiliation agreement has been signed by both parties and will come into effect when the affiliation payment is received. The Board will invite RDAA reps to attend the September 2007 meeting.

6 Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will take place Saturday-Sunday, 28-29 April 2007 in Sydney.