

**Held on Wednesday 12 March 2025 at 7pm at  
The Keadeen, Hotel, Newbridge**

**Present**                      Richard Ames    Bridgit McGing  
   Donnacha Anhold    Niki Potterton (Chair)  
   Denis Currie  
   Fleur Creed

**In Attendance:**        Alison Packman (General Manager) Dermot McMahon (Auditor)

**Members attending in Person**

Catherine Abbott, Michael Adams, Dora Beacom, Margaret Bolger, Carol Coad, Arthur Comyn, Kieran Connors, Clive Corrigan, Fiona Cosgrave, Amaya Cowan, Christine Crosier, Declan Cullen, Cathal Daniels, Sam Deverell, Ray Doyle, Nicola Ennis, Peter Fell, Dereck Hamilton, William Kearney, Sarah Kelly-Drake, Hans Juregen Kuehnle, David Lee, Gerardine Lyttle, John Lyttle, Alasdair MacDonald, Gervaise Maher, Keelan McCarthy, Tom McCarthy, Zazel McCarthy, Donal McKenna, Michael McNally, Jean Mitchell MBE, Edie Murray-Hayden, Gavin Nangle, Michelle Nelson, Nicky Nesbitt, Richard Nesbitt, David Nestor, Tom Nestor, Orla O'Neill, David O'Brien, Rodney O'Donnell, Jane O'Flynn, Angela O'Ryan, Jessica O'Ryan, Faith Ponsonby, Peter Ponsonby, Nicky Roncoroni, Fran Rowlatt-McCormick, Grainne Smith, Karl Smyth, Bridget Speirs, Paula Stammschroer, Georgia Stubington, Catherine Swain, John Tilley, Julia Watson, Andrew Williams, Janet Williamson

**Non-members**

Ann Croome Carroll, Sean Brett, Danny Duloherly, Carolyn Furnell, Gerald Furnell, Michael McNally Snr, Annette O'Callaghan, Rosemary Ponsonby, Peter Walshe

**Online Attendees**

Kellie Adamson, Dag Albert, Sian Ball, Anne Bannon, Sandra Barnwell, Gerald Bloomer, Máire Boyle, Mike Boyle, MI Boyle, Janet Burke, Deirdre Casey Nyhan, Emma Comyn, Ann Corcoran, Fiona Coughlan, Jenny Curley, Tina D, Caroline Daly, Gaelle Daly, Louise Duffy, Mary Ferris, Bill Fouhy, Susanna Francke, Dominic Furnell, Ruth Furney, Tom Gaffney, Isabella Gogan, Ailish Groves, Jane Hancock, Sean H, Orlagh Halliday, Moira Haran Carroll, Carol Henry, Avril Hobson Alison Holden, Karen Holmes, Rosie Coad, Lucy Kelly, Maria Kenny, Patricia Lawlor, David Lowry Tara Madden, Danielle Magner, Hilary Mathieson, Amelia McCarthy, Stephanie McGlynn, Clodagh McGauran, Aoife McSweeney, Patrick Moran, Cathal Murphy, Casey Neville, Angela O Ryan. Jack O'Haire, Lis O'Brien, Paul O'Connor, Michael O'Toole, Lawrence Patterson, Melanie Purcell, Noelle Reidy, Ahmed Samir, Janie Scala, Winnie Shanahan, Morgan Sheehy, Sue Shortt, Evie Smith, Melissa Walsh, Zoe Kavanagh

A further 27 members were online but did not identify themselves

**Apologies**

Debbie Byrne, Kim Constable, Gerard Crehan, Matthew Love, Hannah Watson, John Watson, Sam Watson

**Overview**

The 2024 AGM of Eventing Ireland discussed several key issues. The organisation faced challenges with the 2024 insurance policy, particularly regarding the subrogation clause. Despite a delayed start due to bad weather, average entries increased from 188 to 207. Six international events were hosted, with over 480 applications for overseas competitions. The financial report showed a profit of €35,000, up from a €80,000 loss in 2023, due to increased membership and sponsorship. The insurance model was revised to better reflect event numbers.

The Strategic Plan, including High Performance and event organisation, is under review, with ongoing issues with HSI. The Eventing Ireland AGM 2025 discussed financial contributions to the High Performance committee, noting that show jumping hasn't contributed for three years despite no diminution in support. The two for one funding model between HSI and Sport Ireland was debated, with Niki Potterton explaining the need for affiliate contributions. The meeting highlighted the financial contributions from athletes and ponies to the FEI, totalling nearly €70,000. Concerns were raised about the transparency of High Performance funding, with HSI's €1.8 million budget being a point of contention.

A proposal for a High Performance subcommittee was made, and the need for improved communication and health and safety protocols was emphasised.

The Eventing Ireland AGM 2025 discussed the responsibilities of site organisers and Safety officers, emphasising the need for trained officers to handle compliance documents and risk assessments. A H&S Committee was proposed and whose remit will be focussing on current processes and procedures.

The Youth Committee highlighted the impact of insurance issues and the High Performance program on 370 youth members, noting the need for better communication and a comprehensive event schedule.

Niki Potterton took responsibility for poor communication and promised to improve.

The meeting concluded with a call to run on last year's rulebook until new decisions are made.

### **Eventing Ireland AGM 2025: Introduction and Apologies**

- Niki Potterton, Eventing Ireland Chairman addressed the landowners' and event organisers' dissatisfaction with the insurance policy from the previous year, noting that the subrogation clause was only brought to light this year.
- It was mentioned that the first time we were alerted to an issue with the policy was on 14 February
- Niki Potterton requested to discuss the Minutes from the previous two years later and asks for respect among the volunteers and Board members.
- Richard Ames apologised to Dereck Hamilton for any upset caused, and Niki Potterton emphasises the need for mutual respect.

### **President's Address and Acknowledgements**

- Niki Potterton sent apologies from our President, Jessica Harrington, who is unable to attend due to being at Cheltenham.
- A moment of silence is held for Captain Con Power, Patrick Connolly-Carew, and Mina Connon.

### **Chairmans Address**

- Niki Potterton highlighted the delayed start of the 2024 season due to bad weather and its impact on income and entries.
- The organisation hosted six international events in 2024, with over 480 applications received from athletes wishing to compete overseas.
- There was an increase in average entries to events from 188 in 2023 to 207 in 2024.
- The website is undergoing Phase Three of upgrades, with changes to improve efficiencies and volunteer opportunities.
- The High Performance program is still without leadership and there are ongoing issues with HSI.
- Winter webinars were held to engage trainers, nutritionists, and tack specialists
- Head office team continues to work hard for the benefit of the membership.

**Awards and Achievements**

- Niki Potterton announced the Eventing Ireland Board award presented to Peter Ponsonby for his lifetime commitment to eventing, which included hosting an event at Kilcooley, to building courses and graduating to an FEI TD which saw him travel the world.
- Peter Ponsonby expressed his gratitude and wished for the continued success of eventing.
- Achievement awards are presented to the junior and pony teams, and a special award is given to Lucy Lata for her achievements in Badminton.

**Constitution and Strategic Plan Updates**

- Fleur Creed explained the technical issues with registering the CLG and the need to engage a solicitor to resolve the issue.
- A members' consultation will be held once the Constitution is resolved, with the process expected to take a few months.
- The Strategic Plan, which covers five years from 2024 to 2028, is in progress, with some initiatives already underway.
- Fleur Creed highlighted the importance of the Regional Forum and its role in the structure of Eventing Ireland going forward.

**Financial Overview and Insurance Agreement**

- Fleur Creed presented the financial overview, noting a profit of €35,000 in 2024, a significant improvement from the previous year's loss.
- The increase in membership and registrations, along with sponsorship and marketing efforts, contributed to the improved financial position.
- An agreement with event organisers was made to not profit from insurance. An insurance fund was created which now has a balance of €6,422
- The organisation's reserves policy is discussed, with a focus on maintaining a 12-month reserve to ensure financial stability.

**Discussion on Reserves and Cash Position**

- Fleur Creed explains the importance of reserves for the organisation's survival and the current reserves position is 11.3 months. Our goal is 12 months.
- The net cash position was discussed, with a focus on the organisation's ability to operate without income for the next 12 months.
- The organisation's cash position as of the 31 October is discussed, with a focus on the net cash available for operations.
- The creditors and deferred income were reviewed, with a significant portion attributed to the COVID grant and prepayments.
- The organisation's cash position as of the 31 October is discussed, with a focus on the net cash available for operations.

**Levies and Sponsorship Details**

- Fleur Creed explained the various levies deducted from entry fees, including admin, insurance, regional, safety, and High Performance levies. The HP levy will now be paid to the event organiser.
- The organisation's policy on the High Performance levy was discussed, with a focus on the agreement with event organisers.
- The sponsorship details were reviewed, with a focus on the income and its application to the benefit of competitors and event organisers.
- The organisation's application for a Sports Capital Grant and the reasons for its rejection were discussed.

**High Performance Program and Funding**

- Niki Potterton discussed the ongoing issues with HSI and the lack of engagement in budget discussions and High Performance funding.
- The organisation's efforts to support Grassroots eventing and the potential impact on High Performance programs are highlighted.
- The possibility of taking the High Performance program away from HSI is discussed, which will need ongoing negotiations with other affiliates.



- The requirement for a clear policy and funding model for High Performance programs was emphasised.

**Financial Contributions and High Performance Programme**

- John Lyttle inquired about financial donations towards the new High Performance committee led by the RDS.
- Niki Potterton mentions the last affiliate meeting was before Christmas and legal advice on the High Performance programme.
- He questioned the two to one funding model between HSI and Sport Ireland, noting no legal requirement from Sport Ireland which was invented by Damian McDonald and emphasises the need to donate into the kitty for High Performance funding.

**FEI Licences and High Performance Funding**

- David O'Brien discussed the financial contributions from eventing athletes for FEI registrations and licenses to HSI, highlighting a profit of nearly €66,000 for the High Performance programme.
- Niki Potterton mentioned the High Performance budget of €1.8 million, with €1 million going to HSI, and the difficulty in obtaining detailed accounts.
- David O'Brien compared the financial contributions of Eventing Ireland to other affiliates, noting a significant profit for the FEI.
- Niki Potterton expressed frustration over the lack of transparency in how the €1.8 million is spent by HSI.

**Negotiations with HSI and Sport Ireland**

- Kieran Connors suggested forming an independent working group to negotiate with HSI and Sport Ireland, emphasising the need for separation from the Board.
- Niki Potterton mentioned the lack of negotiations with HSI for the next four years and the positive feedback from Sport Ireland on the High Performance programme given the success of the youths and a second place at Badminton.
- The communication between Eventing Ireland and HSI was questioned, noting the refusal to meet and the need for a new strategy.
- Niki Potterton then discussed the efforts to get Olympic disciplines to represent their own bodies and take HSI out of the loop.

**Formation of a High Performance Subcommittee**

- Fran Rowlett McCormick proposed the establishment of a High Performance subcommittee to manage and direct High Performance funding.
- Niki Potterton expressed willingness to support the proposal but emphasised the need for Board approval. There would have to be clear documentation, Terms of Reference and a formal motion to avoid ambiguity in future decisions.
- The proposal was agreed but highlighted the need for Board involvement and approval in setting up the subcommittee.

**Insurance Policy and Event Organisers**

- Richard Ames provides an update on the insurance policy negotiations, noting the inclusion of a subrogation vacation clause and the naming of landowners on the policy.
- Niki Potterton emphasises the importance of meeting with event organisers to finalise the policy and ensure all landowners are included.
- Speaker 4 questions the timeline for the policy to be in the hands of event organisers, highlighting the need for clear communication.
- Richard Ames assures that the policy is nearly finalised and will be issued soon, with the final details to be worked out in a meeting.

**Adoption of Accounts and New Board Nominations**

- Niki Potterton called for the adoption of the accounts, noting the need for a new auditor due to governance changes.
- Fleur Creed explains the need for a new auditor and the appointment of Eddie Kelly and Companies as the new auditor.

- Niki Potterton announces the appointment of new Board members, both appointed unopposed, Alisdair MacDonald and Bridget McGing.

**Appointment of Auditor**

- John Lyttle questions the appointment of the new auditor, leading to a discussion on the governance process. The new auditor was proposed by John Lyttle and seconded by Sam Deverell.
- Grainne Smith proposed the establishment of a health and safety committee, emphasising the need for high standards and clear communication.
- Niki Potterton supports the proposal and suggested David O'Brien as the chairperson, with Kieran Connors as a potential co-chair.

**Minutes of 2022 AGM and 2023 EGM and AGM**

- John Lyttle proposed the Minutes of both the 2022 AGM and 2023 EGM and AGM
- Seconded: Sam Deverell

**Health and Safety Responsibilities**

- Concerns were raised about the lack of dedicated health and safety personnel and the need for improved protocols.
- Niki Potterton mentioned the proposed training for safety officers and the need for volunteers.
- Richard Ames suggested that David O'Brien head up the health and safety subcommittee and liaise with event organisers for their own risk assessments.
- The legal responsibility of Eventing Ireland in health and safety was emphasised, noting the need for clear contractual agreements with site organisers.
- Michael McNally Snr stated that site organisers are not legally responsible for health and safety, and questions the handover of this responsibility to them.
- Niki Potterton confirmed that Eventing Ireland will train safety officers who will be responsible for compliance documents and sign-offs.
- Michael McNally Snr acknowledged the need for compliance documents and sign-offs, and apologised for any confusion.
- Alasdair MacDonald raised concerns about the coordination between the health and safety committee and the stewards committee, emphasising the extreme nature of the sport and the additional costs involved. He continued to outline the extensive responsibilities of stewards, including checking caterers' qualifications and ensuring safety standards.
- It was emphasised the importance of maintaining high safety standards and the necessity of paperwork and health and safety officers.
- Niki Potterton mentioned Caroline Neville has been engaged, and proposals will be brought forward by David O'Brien.
- Will Kearney questioned the lack of volunteers and suggests that the Safety position be paid.

**Youth Committee's Statement**

- Youth Committee Chair, David Nestor, presented a statement thanking volunteers and partners for their efforts.
- The YC highlighted the impact of recent insurance issues and the High Performance program on youth members, including the need for secure MERS and the challenges faced by riders.
- The statement criticised the growing division between the Board and its members, calling for a focus on the betterment of the sport.
- The Youth Committee requests a task force to address the insurance policy, consistent communication from the board, and a comprehensive update on High Performance support.
- Peter Fell announced Ballindenisk would run on 23 March, detailing the competition structure and qualification criteria.

**Communication and Responsibility**

- Niki Potterton takes full responsibility for poor communication, acknowledging the slow response and promises to improve.



**Rule Book and Final Remarks**

- Jean Mitchell mentioned that the Rules Committee is unable to finalise the Rule Book until more decisions are taken by the event organisers.
- It was agreed to run under 2024 Rule Book until final rules are made and that the key decisions will be communicated to the members.
- The meeting concluded with a thank you from the event organisers association to Will Kearney and Michael McNally for their efforts.

Niki thanked everyone for their contribution and the meeting concluded