



ITBA

WORKING FOR IRISH BREEDERS

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014



CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION



The phrase “cautious optimism” was used in the introduction to our National Seminar – appropriately titled “The Way Forward”. There is indeed good reason for optimism with positive trends at the sales combined with a stellar year of performances by Irish bred horses. Our National Breeding and Racing Awards dinner gave formal recognition to the great Irish horses who brought acclaim to our island during 2013.

The third session of our Seminar was titled “Navigating the Future of Irish Breeding and Racing.” It was a sobering insight into the difficulties we are facing. The challenges outlined and discussed by that panel justify a position of caution and concern. While Ireland has inherent advantages as an environment for raising quality bloodstock none can be taken for granted and ours is an industry which needs committed and proactive government backing. Every one of us needs to lobby our politicians to ensure that our concerns are heard and addressed.

In addition to concerns about industry funding we have the added uncertainty of impending changes in the Irish rates of VAT applicable to bloodstock. Your Association has been working hard to minimise the impact of the proposed new rates.

The two booklets which accompany this newsletter are further evidence of our ongoing efforts in two key areas: tackling production costs and sharing veterinary knowledge. We hope you find them helpful.

This is an election year with 15 seats to be filled on the Association’s Council. It will be the first time the voting will be done on a regional basis and we hope it results in greater levels of engagement. Optimism will remain unfulfilled if all we do is live in hope of a better future: we need to work together to ensure we get what we deserve. A strong and vibrant Association – driven by a strong and vibrant Council -- is the best way to achieve that.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Osborne'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Osborne, ITBA Chairman

AWARDS NIGHT

Over 400 people gathered at the Heritage Golf & Spa Resort, Killenard, County Laois for the ITBA National Annual Breeding & Racing Awards on Saturday, 25th January 2014.

The evening was a resounding success and the ITBA congratulates all award winners. A special mention must go to Jim Bolger who was inducted into our Hall of Fame. Jim is a world-renowned trainer and a top class breeder who has a self-made broodmare band that dreams are made of.

The Wild Geese Award was added to the programme last year and is proving to be a very popular addition. Pat Costello of Paramount Sales, Kentucky was on hand with his family to receive his well deserved trophy. Originally from Freshford, County Kilkenny, Pat serenaded all present with a wonderful rendition of The Mountains of Mourne.

Des Leadon was another who is truly deserving of his Contribution to the Industry award. Des is recognised globally for his veterinary expertise. His commitment and passion for the thoroughbred industry is immense. He chairs the veterinary committees of both the International and European Federations of thoroughbred breeders and together with his colleagues in the Irish Equine Centre is vital to maintaining Ireland's disease free status.

This year's winners listed below demonstrate the quality of the Irish-bred horse on a global level.

- **Small Breeder**
Denis McDonnell
- **2 Year Old Filly**
Chriselliam (Breeder: Ballylinch Stud)
- **2 Year Old Colt**
Toormore (Breeder: BEC Bloodstock)
- **3 Year Old Filly**
Sky Lantern (Breeder: Tally-Ho Stud)
- **3 Year Old Colt**
Dawn Approach (Breeder: Jim Bolger)
- **Older Horse**
Military Attack (Breeder: P.E. Banahan)

- **Broodmare**
La Noire (Breeder: Gerard McGrath)
- **Juvenile Hurdler of the Year**
Our Conor
(Breeder: Gerrardstown House Stud)
- **Leading NH Race Mare of the Year**
Annie Power (Breeder: Eamon Cleary)
- **Leading Chaser of the Year**
Bobs Worth (Breeder: Mrs Lois Eadie)
- **Leading Hurdler of the Year**
Hurricane Fly (Breeder: Agricola Del Parco)
- **Contribution to the Industry**
Dr. Des Leadon
- **Wild Geese Award**
Pat Costello
- **Hall of Fame Award**
Jim Bolger



ITBA Award Recipients

NATIONAL SEMINAR – THE WAY FORWARD

The ITBA held its Annual National Seminar entitled 'The Way Forward' at The Heritage Golf & Spa Resort in Killenard, County Laois on Thursday 30th January. In excess of 450 people gathered throughout the day eager to get a few nuggets of inspiration from the experts on each of the three panels.

Session 1 **Optimising Finances on your Stud Farm**

The first session was chaired by ITBA Vice Chairman Derek Iceton and tackled the financial aspects of running a stud farm. Experts David O'Connell (OCAE Consultants Ltd), Declan McEvoy (IFAC Consultant) and Micheal Fahy (Rathbarry Stud) all gave expert opinion on the best financial methods to maximise the financial return on stud farms. David O'Connell advised stud owners that they needed to identify inefficiencies on their farm to improve their management and finances. Micheal Fahy gave a practical synopsis on the day-to-day running of a major farm.

IFAC Tax Consultant Declan McEvoy gave a detailed presentation on better financial practices, urging breeders to prepare budgets and be more mindful of their income and expenditures. He advised on various areas including income tax, company tax, gift tax, inheritance tax and capital gains tax.

The issue of VAT changes due to commence in May 2014 was addressed. Derek Iceton advised that the ITBA is seeking to get an extension to the planned implementation date and that we will be lobbying the government to exclude as many categories of horses possible from the 9% rate such as mares, stallions and young stock.



Session 1 Panelists



Session 2 Panelists

Session 2 **Modern advances in Mare reproduction**

Session two was chaired by former ITBA Chairman Joe Heron (Castlehyde Stud) and dealt with the veterinary issues of getting and keeping the mare in foal.

A top class panel included Dr. Tom Riddle from the world renowned Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky; Mark MacRedmond based at the Anglesey Lodge Equine Hospital on the Curragh; and Kilcash Equine Clinic's Andrea Ryan. Questions were fielded from the floor where breeders were encouraged to ask these top veterinarians any queries they had prior to beginning their busy breeding season.

There was a wide range of veterinary topics discussed including what treatments to use to clean a mare prior to covering, whether the panel would recommend flushing pre- and post- cover and when was the best time to scan for pregnancy. All questions were dealt with in a very practical and easy to understand terminology.

NATIONAL SEMINAR – THE WAY FORWARD (CONTD.)

The ITBA updated their Cost Survey booklet for 2014 and copies were available to all attendees. One major question was the differentials between the Irish Equine Centre prices and vets' prices to breeders. Sarah McNicholas from the Irish Equine Centre explained that prices charged to vets from the IEC were wholesale prices and therefore would differ from those charged to the breeder.

Session 3 Navigating the Future of Irish Breeding and Racing

The final session discussed the future of the Irish breeding and racing industries covering the topic of where we are, where we have come from and where we want to go.

Chaired by ITBA President John O'Connor (Ballylinch Stud) the panel consisted of industry consultant Elizabeth Headon, trainers Jim Bolger and Willie Mullins, journalist Kevin Blake and Joe Foley of Ballyhane Stud. Elizabeth Headon made a presentation highlighting industry statistics over the last 10 years. Brilliantly chaired by John O'Connor each aspect of Ms Headon's presentation was discussed and resulted in an entertaining interaction with all the panellists. Contents of the presentation included:

- Thoroughbred industry funding has been cut by 29% in recent years
- Foal numbers have dropped – they are lower now than they were in 1998
- The number of horses in training has also declined
- Since the removal of the Stallion Tax Exemption, stallion numbers have declined drastically
- Registered mares are 30% lower than in 2003
- In the last 15 years the betting duty has been reduced from 10% to 1%
- Betting duty in the rest of Europe averages at 7.7%
- While betting duty has reduced here, the betting turnover has trebled
- The issue of prize money and owner contribution was also discussed

Jim Bolger, world class trainer and breeder stated "there is an obvious correlation between the 30% drop in prize money over the last 10 years and the corresponding drop in the broodmare band. I've always maintained that prize money is the lifeblood of racing. We're on the top stage in the world and giving the government a good return but we're running world class racing on a shoestring budget."

Joe Foley from Ballyhane Stud stated that "Ireland is competing for international business with other countries. We have the people, we have the land and now we need the right commitment to expand our industry."

The objective and message to bring forward from this session is that we have an industry that we should be proud of. Everybody in the room was encouraged to use this information to lobby their local politicians and remind them that with proper funding this industry is more than capable of standing on its own two feet.



Session 3 Panelists

NATIONAL HUNT FILLIES BONUS SCHEME



We are delighted to announce that we had our first ITBA NH bonus winner at Gowran Park Racecourse on Saturday 15th February. Gaillimh A Chroi, (Flemensfirth -- Burnt Out (Anshan)) owned by Eileen O'Brien and John Anthony Harrington, trained by John Queally won the Ronan Lawlor Memorial Mares (Pro/Am) INH Flat Race comprehensively by 12 lengths under a convincing ride from Nina Carberry.

The response to this initiative launched last year was phenomenal. It was designed to enhance NH fillies' commercial appeal at sales and to encourage breeders and owners to race fillies. The racing programme over the last couple of years reflects the growing number of fillies/mares participating in the NH circuit, currently there are 72 maiden races in the calendar and we are confident that we will provide the €5,000 bonus in each and every one.

YITBA

The YITBA Apprentices are firmly ensconced in their second placements.



Justin Timmons is learning the ropes at Con Marnane's Bansha House Stables. Con is one of the country's leading pinhookers and producers of top class racehorses. He carefully selects yearlings in

USA, England, France, Germany, Italy, South Africa and Ireland and presents them at major breeze up sales in Europe. Justin is relishing this placement and is gaining great insight into and experience of the preparation of horses for sales.

Eamon Moran spent a month in the ITBA HQ before embarking on the breeding season at Coolmore Stud. His first placement was in an administrative capacity in HRI and he is now experiencing a completely different role of outdoor duties at Coolmore Stud. Eamon is delighted to be handling some of the best mares in the world and is proving more than capable of dealing with the diversity that comes with being the YITBA apprentice.

We look forward to reading both of their blogs when they appear in The Irish Field upon completion of their second placement.

COOLMORE

VAT

The timing of the Department of Finance/Revenue consultation period on bloodstock VAT has been announced and submissions are requested by March 6th. Industry stakeholders have been meeting on the issue with a view to preparing our submission. The thrust of our lobbying remains as previously agreed: push back the implementation date as much as possible and seek derogations from the 9% rate (to the 4.8% rate) for as many categories as possible (mares, foals, stallions). The advice we have received is that the 13.5% rate for stallion nominations sold by VAT registered stallion owners will not be reduced. The flat rate addition remains at 5% and all breeders have the option whether or not to register for VAT based on their individual business situations. Once we have our submission in draft form we will reconvene our industry group to review it and then schedule meetings with IFA and Horse Sport Ireland.

EIRGRID PYLON AND WIND TURBINE CAMPAIGNS

The Association has made submissions against both the above projects. One of our objectives is to identify any threats to the long term success of the thoroughbred industry in Ireland. As requested by a large number of our members we must take action to protect our productive agricultural lands, our world renowned thoroughbred industry and the thousands of jobs it provides in rural Ireland. We have commissioned a thoroughbred density mapping exercise which will be helpful for the campaigns and of broader benefit to the Association.



TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT

A new Agreement was signed between the three member states of Ireland, UK and France in November 2013 and will come into effect on May 18th 2014. This means that only certain categories of horses are eligible to move between Ireland/UK and France without official veterinary certification, but with an EU TRACES generated document - a 'DOCOM'.

'Non-TPA' horses possibly including horses being moved on a personal basis will have to be accompanied by official veterinary certification similar to the current arrangements for movements of horses between member states.

The ITBA has been identified by the Department of Agriculture as an approved body and work is ongoing on the production of a specific DOCOM for its members.



ITBA

WORKING FOR IRISH BREEDERS

ELECTIONS

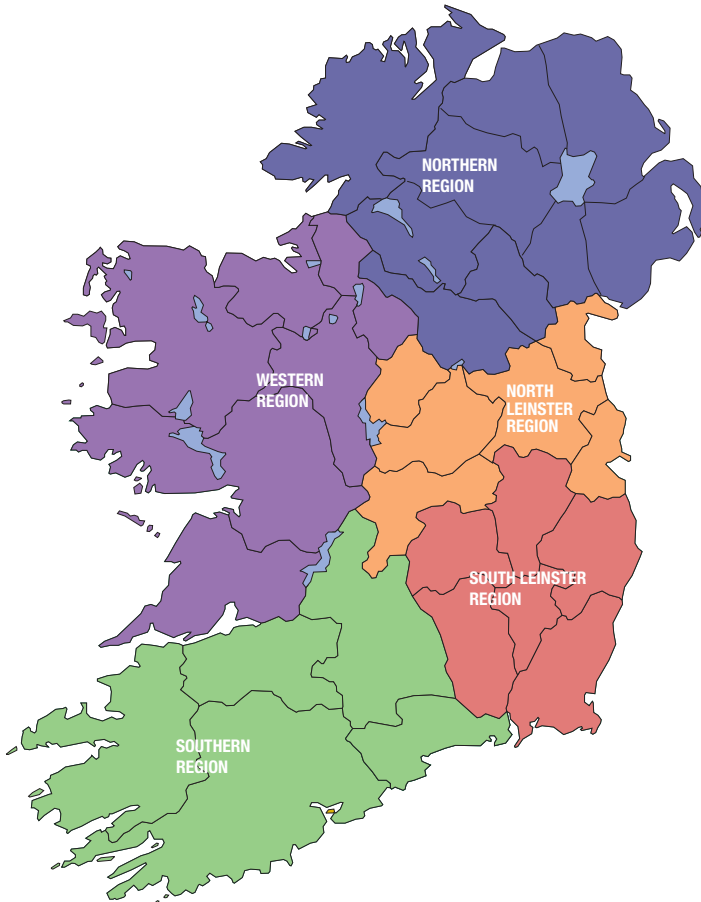
In accordance with the Association's rules, elections to ITBA Council will take place this year. The Council is responsible for the control and administration of all the business of the Association and consists of the Honorary Officers of the Association and not more than twenty members (regional nominees) nominated by the regions.

Under rule (17) every regional nominee to Council shall have been a paid up member of the Association for at least two years immediately before his or her election and shall be nominated in writing by not less than five current paid up members.

Members entitled to vote shall have the right to one vote within their region and vacancies are as follows:

Northern Region (2), North Leinster (3), South Leinster (4), Southern Region (5), Western Region (1).

If you wish to take a more active role in your Association allow your name to go forward for election. All interested eligible members should send their completed nomination forms to the Manager so as to reach him not later than Friday 28th February.



REGIONAL EVENTS

North Leinster Region

In December the ITBA North Leinster Region held their annual Awards Evening to acknowledge the achievements of horses bred in their region. This year's awards had a global flair with regionally bred horses winning in as far afield as Hong Kong and Melbourne. Over 140 people enjoyed the wonderful festive ambience and delicious meal at the Killeen Castle Golf Club, Dunsany Co. Meath.



Winners on the night were:

- **National Hunt Hurdler Award**
Our Conor – Gerrardstown House Stud
- **National Hunt Chaser Award**
Mount Benbulbin – Mrs Margaret McGearty
- **Leading National Hunt Mare**
Leading Counsel – Mr Winston Honner
- **George Mernagh Memorial Perpetual Trophy – Leading Point to Point Horse**
Timesremembered – Mr Jarlath Glynn
- **Older Flat Horse Award**
Military Attack – Mr Percy Banahan
- **Peter Gibbons Memorial Perpetual Trophy – Leading Flat Horse**
Sky Lantern – Tally Ho Stud
- **Special Achievement Award**
Ballymacoll Stud – Fiorente (Melbourne Cup Winner 2013)

ITBA AWARDS NIGHT PHOTO GALLERY



Eric Hoyeau presents to John & Joey Banahan



Jim Bolger leaving the table to collect his award



ITBA Awards trophies



Pat Costello - future American Idol winner?

SOUTHERN REGION

The Southern Region will host their annual awards evening in conjunction with the annual Cheltenham Preview evening on Sunday 2nd March 2014 in the Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare, County Limerick. The Southern Region boasts a very high calibre of horses and this is reflected in the list of winners who will be honoured on the evening.

- **Leading Flat 2YO Award**
Rizeena - Mr Bobby Donworth,
Roundhill Stud, Co Limerick
- **Leading Flat 3YO Award**
Olympic Glory - Mr Denis McDonnell,
Fermoy, Co Cork
- **Leading Flat Older Horse**
La Collina - Mr Frank Barry,
Manister House Stud, Co Limerick
- **Leading National Hunt Hurdler Award**
At Fishers Cross - Mr Liam O'Regan,
Fermoy, Co Cork
- **Leading National Hunt Chaser Award**
Lord Windermere - Mr Edmond Coleman,
Killeagh, Co Cork
- **Special Achievement Award**
Missunited - Dan & Vanessa Hutch,
Kanturk, Co Cork



Winston Honner receives his presentation from Michael Tallon

SPRING SEMINARS

Northern Region

Title: **Preparation for the Breeding Season**
Venue: Seagoe Hotel, Portadown, Co Armagh
Date: Wednesday 26th February 2014
Time: 8.00pm

This Seminar will be chaired by Dr Dean Harron and will consist of two presentations followed by a questions and answers session. There will be light refreshments for all attendees.

Session 1: Getting and Keeping your mare in Foal - Meta Osborne MRCVS

Session 2: Bloodline Crosses and Pedigree Analysis - Gary Hadden

Western Region

Title: **Minimising Risk/ Maximising Output in your Bloodstock Operation**

Venue: Shearwater Carlton, Ballinasloe, Co Galway

Date: Thursday March 6th 2014

Time: 8:00 p.m.

This Seminar will be chaired by Ignatius Geraghty and will consist of three presentations followed by a questions and answers session. There will be light refreshments for all attendees.

Session 1: Cost effective methods for Land Management - Tim Burke

Session 2: Getting and keeping your Mare in Foal / Looking after your newborn Foal

Session 3: Financial Planning - Declan McEvoy IFAC

Session 4: Cheltenham Preview with leading NH Trainer



All members are welcome and are encouraged to bring along any equine enthusiasts with them.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Reminder for Unpaid Subscriptions

Members who have yet to pay their annual subscription can do so by cheque/cash, credit card or on line. Please contact Regina at ITBA HQ on 045 877543 for assistance.

Competition Winner

Mr Jim Bradley, Beechwood Stud, Batterstown, Co Meath was the winner of the €500 Voucher for any Irish sales company for early payment of his annual subscription.

Insurance

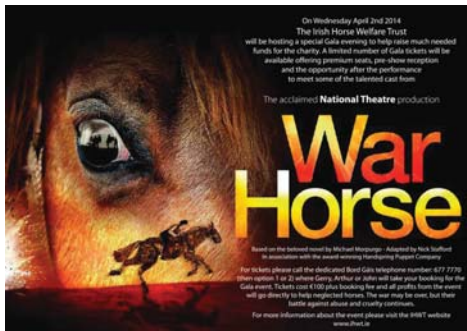
All members are reminded that the ITBA Accidental Death and Personal Accident Insurance Cover will begin on 1st March 2014. We encourage all members to pay their subscription to get full value of their cover.

The Irish Horse Welfare Trust

On Wednesday 2nd April, 2014 the IHWT will be hosting a gala evening to the production of War Horse at the Bord Gais Theatre. The gala event will help raise much needed funds for the charity.

A limited number of Gala tickets will be available offering premium seats, pre-show reception and the opportunity after the performance to meet some of the talented cast. Tickets are €100 and are available directly from the Bord Gais telephone number 01 6777770.

All profits from the event will go directly to help neglected horses. For more information visit the IHWT website www.ihwt.ie



Strike Performance Wear 5% Discount for Members

Ms Eileen Ring, Director of Strike Performance Wear is offering ITBA Members a 5% discount on any merchandise. Should you wish to avail of this discount please contact Eileen on 086 8041342 or visit her website www.strikeperformancewear.ie

Racecourse Admission

ITBA members are reminded that should a horse they bred run at any Irish racecourse they will get FREE entry passes for two people. Simply contact the ITBA on 045 877543 when the horse is declared to avail of this benefit.



ITBA Publications

The ITBA have produced two publications that are included with this newsletter:

Making your Bloodstock Business Pay

This is an up to date cost survey booklet designed to help breeders make more informed decisions concerning costs in their bloodstock operations.

ITBA Veterinary Lecture Series 2013

This booklet covers a series of veterinary lectures which took place in 2013:

Hoof and Health Care in Foals

Lawsonia in Horses

Identification and Management of High Risk Pregnancies in the Mare

Piroplasmosis: An Overview for Ireland

EHV Vaccines

ITBA, Greenhills, Kill, Co. Kildare, Ireland

Tel. +353 (0)45 877543

Fax. +353(0) 45 877429

Email. info@itba.ie

www.itba.ie



ITBA_Official



Irish Thoroughbred
Breeders' Association