



## President's Report 2022

This past 12 months, post covid, the committee has reflected and agreed on what we can do to improve the Society for our members and their horses and is eager to see our Society move forward and be more pro-active.

With travel and borders slowly opening back up, we have worked hard to try and organise some shows and inspections, and work on initiatives to promote the breed and invite new members to join us.

In April we had our first inspection post Covid-19 and tried a new format that we thought might be an answer to provide more inspections across the country, via video, and not requiring our inspectors having to travel as much. Although the idea was welcomed by members, and we saw the classification of 2 new purebred Stallions, 1 purebred mare and 2 part bred mares, the process itself, ultimately, was not deemed successful to be continued, so the committee decided to investigate other ways and formats, to offer inspections.

Two main points this year of the committee's reflections were surrounding the registration and inspection processes.

We agreed that we need to streamline the pedigree identification process to enable us to turn around horse registrations faster. We acknowledge that our process times have not been acceptable, and we appreciate our members for supporting us in coming forward with their questions and concerns.

We sincerely apologise for the delays and assure our members that we are working very hard behind the scenes to streamline and expedite processes to make registrations faster and more efficient. We are implementing new platforms to make discussions and organisations easier and faster, especially as our committee members are dispersed across the country, and we will also be calling for expressions in interest, after this AGM, for a new Registrar to work closely with our committee.

We have considered our current inspection process and investigated what other countries such as the United Kingdom and North America are doing. We are conscious that the ID and ISH are heavily used as performance horses (particularly for eventing and Showjumping) in Australia. With this in mind, the committee has decided to move towards a new inspection process, and move towards the Linear Scoring system, which also offers a merit system that encompasses a jumping component to show the breeds athleticism.

This system assesses a horse on more than just conformation and temperament, it also assesses its athleticism, jumping scope/ability, and temperament under saddle.

The committee is currently finalising the new processes, including the involvement of new and independent inspectors, and more details on the new registration and inspection processes will be shared with members as soon as it is finalised.

In another attempt to try to promote and raise awareness of the Irish breed, and to support our members and stallion owners, a stallion raffle was held, open to members and non-members across the country. This yielded an amazing result, with over 200 tickets sold all over Australia, awarding 5 winners who will be breeding to their chosen RID or ISH.

The chosen Stallions were:

- Touch of the Blues RID
- Cushavon Kalin Ri' RID

- Cushavon Tiernan Ri' RID
- Carrigfada Grey Mist RID
- Glenhill Bounce RID

Two shows have been organised this year. The first one was in QLD with a wonderful turnout by members, despite all the wet weather. The second show is being held this coming December in Victoria, which will not only be open to members, but also Non-members for Showjumping.

The committee feels that by allowing non-members to attend our shows with a day membership, it is a great way to:

- Increase our entry numbers, meaning less chance of cancelling due to lack of entries
- Allow non-members on the day (and their entourage) to see and view our amazing Irish bred horses competing and hopefully pique their interest
- Allow Irish owners, who are not members, to be enticed to join, and enter the breed classes
- Raise awareness of our Society to other horse owners / riders / breeders who are looking to enter and participate in competitions / shows
- Lay foundations for future events with more entries

The committee is aware that we are a national society, and we are aiming to plan more shows at more locations next year, ideally combining our numbers with the Connemara Society, and welcome any members that wish to assist.

Our website is also currently undergoing a major overhaul to bring it up to date with technology and allowing the registration, transfer, membership, merchandise, and payment processes to be a much simpler process, reconciling in real time. This will move us away from relying on manual order forms, payment deposits, and online forms.

It has been a slow process with more than just a small hurdle here and there. Whilst it may not always be apparent to our members, our committee (who incidentally are completely voluntary) are committed to positive change.

We do anticipate that there will still be challenges, however we are hopeful that the Society will continue to receive constructive support from its members.

Moving forward, the committee is extremely excited to finally be making changes to improve and speed up processes and offer more to our members in 2023.

And don't forget for the ride of your life, ride Irish!

Monika Rodger

President IDSHS (Aust) Inc.