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### **2021 Equine Support Grant Funding**

The IHRA are pleased to announce that the association has been successful again in 2021 in the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine's Equine Support Scheme grant process. This scheme awards national passport issuing authorities each year. The IHRA as the national passport issuing authority for the Pacer and Trotter studbooks respectively on the island of Ireland this year, will receive €30,560 from the fund for the following specific projects, and we are extremely

grateful to all at DAFM for approving our projects yet again. This brings the total successful projects of the IHRA, over the last five years close to €200,000 via this departmental scheme.



The projects approved for 2021 are:

#### **1. IHRA Passport Issuing:**

The IHRA will now take passport issuing inhouse in the coming months and it is hoped that all passports will have a greater turn around time which will be of great benefit to both the industry and its members. This project allows the IHRA to purchase all relevant equipment required to process and produce all passports going forward.

#### **2. Sectional timing:**

This project will now allow the IHRA to purchase two individual timers for all three regions (Annaghmore, Cork & Portmarnock) and will be used to clock sectional times or act as a countdown timer, which ever may be the case across all venues to help our members with the restricted warmups or our competitors or public attendees take note of the sectional times throughout the race itself.

#### **3. Breeding & Genetic Evaluation Publication:**

The IHRA intends to publish its first annual foal book this coming autumn to publicly promote the breed of the Standardbred and the Trotteur Francais. It will allow viewers to examine the breeding and genetic crosses of all foals and yearlings of 2021 as well as aiding breeders for the upcoming breeding season next year. It will consist of a picture of each horse, its generation pedigree & an owner's statement. The IHRA breeding committee will be in contact with all breeders in the coming weeks to discuss this inaugural publication.

To conclude, the IHRA are delighted to be announcing the success of these projects today to our membership as it highlights the importance of the industry to be a passport issuing authority to avail of the funds through this annual scheme. In the coming weeks, the IHRA are due to announce further funding projects for the sport and these will be communicated to all members in due course.