



ALBERTA HORSE TRIALS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting AGENDA

iHotel, Red Deer, October 25, 2014 1:30 PM

- 1.0 Call to Order at 1:32 pm.
 - 1.1 Welcome, Introduction of the 2014 Board of Directors. Kristine welcomed the members and each board member introduced themselves.
 - 1.2 Present: Kristine Haut, Nancy Watson, Sheilah Swanberg, Cassandra Walker, Kat Townsend, Sharon Roberts, Kathleen Ziegler, Bill Kirk, Ulrika Wikner, Kristin Halsey, Laurie Powell, Jenn Smart, Cathy-Ann David, Julie Simard, Jessica Kerschbaumer, Sam Hives, Geri Hives, Jackie Kessler, Margo Gaglione, Becky Galbraith, Trish Nagel, Lauren Nagel, Bryan Donnegan, Kathleen Weare, Brooke Matter, Tammy Alexander, Kevin Kupsch, Derek Jackson, Sandra Donnelly, Jen Rekrutiak, Keri Zulyniak, Sarah Simpson, Niki Elash, Tricia Dahms, Karen Tomlinson, Jo Ann OpdenDries.
- 2.0 Adoption of Agenda
 - 2.1 Additions/Revisions. Motion by Kathleen Weare to accept agenda as read. Seconded by Charlene Thomas. Motion carried.
- 3.0 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of October 26, 2013. Motion to accept minutes as read by Margo Gaglione. Seconded by Jessica. Motion carried.
 - 3.1 Business arising from minutes: Margo questioned about the bringing horse to the vet when eliminated. This was brought up EC but nothing happened. Kris has sent letter regarding our lack of happiness as these meetings. Should we contact the provincial associations about this as well?
- 4.0 Treasurer's Report was presented by Sheilah Swanberg. Sheilah presented the balance sheet and income statement which are attached to this report. Margo mentioned buying timing devices that record automatically the number of starter and the time. Jackie Kessler motioned to accept Treasurer's report as read. Seconded by Sandra Donnelly. Motion carried.
 - 4.1 Casino Report by Jackie Kessler. The casino needs about 30 people a day. It was June 8/9 2014 at the Elbow River Casino. The Volunteer base was below what was required. We received \$76,000.00 in funding. Next casino is in the first quarter of 2016 (January-March) at the Elbow River Casino. Report attached.
- 5.0 Other Reports
 - 5.1 President's Report: Attached.
 - 5.2 Athlete Development/High Performance Report: Attached.
 - 5.3 Clinic Report Report: Attached. Brian Donnegan mentioned that The Alberta Dressage Association has clinics that our members may attend.
 - 5.4 Communications Report:
Charlene comments about the unofficial Facebook group. A lot of information is posted there and not on the AHTA website. Kathleen Weare wants all events to use Startbox. That decision is up to the organizers. Brian Donnegan wants to ensure that Facebook is not the only communication tool. Patricia Nagel was wondering where people find out how to event. How can we help? Sarah Simpson has a "How to eventing for dummies". Sarah will send to AHTA to look at. Tricia Dahms spoke about the difficulty finding where are the dressage tests are for people who are new to eventing. Dressage test links are



available on the AHTA website. Tricia would like us to have the handbook back. Margo suggested mentoring and why can't we hook up new members with an established eventer. Brian Donnegan wants to have coaches at each test. That is up to the coaches themselves.

5.5 Membership and Statistics Report: PowerPoint presentation was done by Bill and Laurie. A higher year in both members and rides. Charlene thanks Laurie for keeping the leaderboard up to date.

5.6 Rider Rep report: A few small issues at a few events. Still some issues with the starter and pre-entry divisions and rules. More people need to know about using the Rider Rep for issues.

6.0 Elections

6.1 Directors whose terms have expired: Kristin Halsey (not standing for re-election), Bill Kirk (not standing for re-election), Laurie Powell (standing for re-election), Nancy Watson (standing for re-election), Ulrika Wikner (standing for re-election), Kathleen Ziegler (standing for re-election)

6.2 Nominating Committee Report: The committee has nominated Jessica Kerschbaumer and Becky Galbraith.

6.3 Nominations from the Floor. No nominations from the floor.

6.3.1 Election: No election needed. Becky Galbraith and Jessica Kerschbaumer as well as current board members standing for re-election make up the 2014/2015 Board by acclamation. Becky and Jessica introduced themselves to the membership.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Casino: Kris asked the membership how we get our members to volunteer. Suggestions included: transportation, hotel rooms, contacting new members, Sara suggests targeting coaches to get their people to volunteer, volunteer commitment on membership, group approach for carpooling, pay for a van drive from Edmonton, call members, certificate for \$ towards an event or clinic, clinic vouchers, and marketing the benefits of the casino money. It was mentioned that fear of the unknown may be one reason members aren't committing. It was suggested that we use signage where the money is going. IE. This fence was bought from casino funds.

7.2 30 minute rule – Charlene Thomas wants the 30 minute wait time for scores to be eliminated if the last phase is show jumping. Members dislike waiting for their prizes & ribbons after show jumping. The States do their presentations right after the completion of the division. Lynda Ramsey (in a letter) suggested that we move to an electronic system like Startbox would help with the length of time. Can we move scorer to the show jump arena or move the awards to another area? Can we let competitors know when scores are posted? Can the scorer be closer to show jumping, move awards to another area? People want to get their prizes before the next division.

7.3 Canadian Eventing Congress. Congress attendees were unhappy with the format of EC Congress last year. We had no input and Kris sent a letter in that regard. Those items not brought forward last year will be brought forward to EC again this year.

7.4 Rule change deadline is the end of May. The Board cannot send rule changes, they must be sent to EC by individuals.



7.5 Organizer's Forum is Sunday October 26 at Sports Hall of Fame at 10:00 am. Members are welcome to attend.

7.6 Starter/pre-entry rules: Cochrane has pre-entry fences that are miniature versions of higher divisions while the rest of the Starter courses are typically logs. The board is again going to work on division rules. Can we use walk/trot dressage tests for starter & pre-entry? There was some concern that some of the Starter and Pre-entry fences are too close to the training/prelim division and that is spooking horses. The Board will have a board member possibly the rider rep to walk these courses in 2015 to check these. At these levels, can we separate the young riders from the open so that the warm up rings are less crowded or extra warm up areas? Can the ground jury and officials be more visible – i.e.: high visibility vests? Competitors should use the Rider Rep or contact the office for speed of finding ground jury.

7.7 AHTA financials: We have a good bank reserve and we want to know where members want to spend it? Casino funding has to be spent for sporting equipment. Suggestions included:

- A timing device. Handheld Seiko timers for XC. Shows on printout and led. Can be synchronized.
- Education and communication strategies – flow chart.
- HTBC has anew communication system that is set up through a radio system. AHTA should look at this. Jo Ann Open Dries has mentioned that Nick Holmes has bought this. Cost is approximately \$3000 to \$3500. Should talk to Ron Trickett. Wireless works in the rain and it is quality announcing equipment. Could be used to announce time penalties and faults in show jumping. Knowing this helps let other riders know how to ride the course.
- Electronic eyes for timing stadium.
- It was mentioned that aluminum show jumps with safety cups are on sale at EQ Barns.com.

8.0 Round Table Discussion: Various suggestions on clinic places such as the Olds Agriplex, Hepsen arena. New competition sites – none at present are in the works.

9.0 Adjournment: Julie Simard motioned to adjourn at 4:08.

***Quorum required for AGM to proceed: 25 Senior Members or 5% of Total 2013 Senior Membership, whichever is the lesser. (From AHTA By-Laws)*



2014 President's Report (Banquet)

Good evening and welcome to the 2014 Alberta Horse Trials Association's Awards Banquet. It is wonderful to see so many people here tonight. I believe the attendance this year is a record so that is fantastic! There is an impressive number of silent auction items tonight. Our members are clearly a generous bunch. Thank you so much to everyone who donated items and thank you in advance for bidding each other up all evening long!

Thank you to everyone who attended this afternoon's annual general meeting. I always look forward to the opportunity to have a dialogue with our members and get some feedback about the eventing year. Today at the AGM we also welcomed new members to our board of directors. I would like to welcome Jessica Kerschbaumer and Becky Galbraith to the board. Jessica is an active rider with the AHTA who is often seen burning up the preliminary cross country courses on her speedy chestnut mare. Becky is a certified coach with many years of experience coaching, riding, and training in the eventing discipline. Both of these ladies are sure to be a tremendous asset to the board.

We also recently concluded our treasurer recruitment. Welcome to Cassandra Walker who will be shadowing Sheilah Swanberg for the next year and will hopefully continue on after Sheilah resigns as the new AHTA treasurer. Cassandra is from Airdrie and has quite a bit of experience in administration and accounting most recently for a general contractor for commercial construction. She started eventing in BC many years ago and got back in to eventing 2 years ago here in Alberta. She is working on a new young horse hoping to compete next year with him.

With the welcoming of new board directors we must also say goodbye to retiring directors. This year Kristin Halsey and Bill Kirk decided not to stand for re-election. Bill has been on the board since 2008. He has been the membership secretary for a few years now and prior to that was the Vice President. Kristin is the special events coordinator and was responsible for organizing the AGM and banquet as well as board of director meetings throughout the year.

We said goodbye to Mary Busch earlier this year. Mary was our marketing director and was responsible for all of the AHTA merchandise you may have or have seen. I would like to thank Kristin, Mary, and Bill for all of their hard work and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Here are your 2014 Highlights. Please forgive me as there is a bit of repetition from the AGM earlier!



- There was a substantial increase in membership numbers and total rides this year. Thompson Country Horse Trials had a record year for entries so congratulations to their committee.
- In 2014 the Board budgeted \$36,000 in course support and \$10,000 in capital funding to our event sites. This money is allocated to the event sites to improve cross country courses, purchase equipment such as dressage rings and jumps, and to assist in capital projects such as bank complexes, water complexes, and footing.
- This past year has been extremely busy with the High Performance Program. 2014 saw the largest number of members since the program's inception 8 years ago, a total of 20 riders. Many riders have had much success this year. Leah Breakey and David Ziegler received Athlete Development Scholarships from Equine Canada. Both riders have gone on and had excellent show results. Leah has been competing, successfully at the 3* level on the west coast. David is the first rider **EVER** to medal in two different disciplines, the same year, at NAJYRC. He won the Gold medal in Eventing and a silver medal in Dressage.
- In June the AHTA had the opportunity to participate in another casino resulting in **\$76,467.39** of funding! Thank you to Jackie Kessler for all of her hard work in organizing this year's casino. Thank you also to everyone that volunteered their time. I can't stress enough the importance the casino to our association. Getting enough volunteers can be a challenge so earlier today at the AGM we discussed how we were going to achieve a full roster of volunteers and an equally full roster of backups for the next casino. We had some excellent ideas proposed earlier at the AGM so the board will work on implementing them for the next casino. Next time you hear a call for volunteers for the casino, please consider volunteering.

I would like to thank all of the board members, sponsors, volunteers, organizers, coaches, and parents for everything you do for the sport. Congratulations to all of the award winners tonight.



HIGH PERFORMANCE/ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT 2014 YEAR END REPORT Kathleen Ziegler

This past year has been extremely busy with the High Performance Program. We had 20 members, which is our largest membership in the 8 years that the program has been running. This increased number has made it difficult to try to meet everyone's needs and wants. Some days, it felt like I was herding cats. The clinics had started in February and we were meeting every few months from then on. Our Coach/Consultant continues to be Lynda Ramsay and our additional clinicians included Leslie Law, Claudia Cojocar, James Alliston and April Clay.

We have had some riders have a very successful year. Leah Breakey and David Ziegler received Athlete Development Scholarships from Equine Canada. Both riders have gone on and had excellent show results. Leah has been competing, successfully at the 3* level on the west coast. David is the first rider to medal in two different disciplines, the same year, at NAJYRC. He won the Gold medal in Eventing and a silver medal in Dressage.

The desire to train and compete at levels higher than Prelim is increasing and we have more riders heading to the US, every year. I have also been quite impressed with a few of our riders who were a little scarce this year and I had originally been concerned they were going to walk away from Eventing. However, have since learned they had buckled down, and taken summer school courses so they could finish Grade 12 early and are heading to the US for some good working student positions.

The HP riders continue to improve and as numbers increase, we hope that it will warrant an Intermediate course to make its appearance in Alberta. With the eventual addition of an Intermediate course, we will have to continue to encourage our coaches to become educated to ensure they have riders who will be able to school and compete safely at this level.

Coaching improvement continues to be a work in progress. We held another Coaching Clinic, over Easter, in Red Deer. It was very well attended by our High Performance riders and an additional 18 lower level coaches. These lower level coaches were mainly Hunter/Jumper in addition to a few Eventing coaches. The clinic discussions included what a Dressage Judge looks for with Lynda Ramsay; Show Jumping with Claudia Cojocar and April Clay spoke regarding what Coaches need to consider when teaching.

I was invited to be part of the planning group for the new Eventing No Boundaries Program that EC is spearheading. This will be a Talent Identification Program for riders at the 2* level and below. There are so many changes at EC, at the present time, including many of the Eventing Committee Heads so we will see what develops at our meeting, in Toronto in November. One of the positives of this program will be that it will not be based solely on a horse/rider combination. The long term plan is to help develop athletes who are educated in Athlete Self Management (nutrition, sleep, fitness, etc); Quality of daily training environment; Athlete-Coach relationship; Integrated support; Horse Management (horse care including vet care, complementary treatments, feed, fitness, etc); Planning and Preparation (YTP); Adaptability; Accountability; Fiscal Knowledge.....

We have a number of lower level riders who have upper level dreams and we need to ensure they are educated and prepared so that the journey can be safe, successful and rewarding.



Clinic Report

There were four AHTA clinics that were open to all members this year.

James Alliston at Alhambra, Noel Clark/Becky Galbraith at Thompson Country, Lynda Ramsey at Cochrane & Jen Smart/Lois Girard at Alhambra. All clinics were well attended. Approximately 20 people in each clinic.

A couple of changes this year one; as suggested by a few members, a clinic with a higher profile clinician. This clinic was open to all AHTA members. James was well received and many participants would like to him invited back. Second was the clinic in Cochrane that was held during the week (Monday – Wednesday). Both of these changes have good and bad points.

Equine Canada provides \$750.00 subsidy for AHTA clinics that meet their criteria, this year the funds were used to support the Lynda Ramsey clinic that took place in Cochrane.

Changes for 2015 clinics can be expected, as the ATHA has recommended a clinic committee, so there should be lots of ideas and extra hands to make it a great year.

All in all, I understand that the clinic participants were pleased with the clinicians and venues for this past year. I would like to thank Kathleen Ziegler for her help in organizing clinics this year.

If anyone wishes to provide suggestions or comments for this past year's clinic or for 2015, it is appreciated.

Sharon Roberts