



Alberta Horse Trials Association

AHTA Annual General Meeting

Holiday Inn, Gasoline Alley

November 2, 2024 – 1:30 p.m.

Attendees: Jessica Kerschbaumer, Jasmine Jarvis, Ulrika Wikner, Kelsey Gore, Kathleen Ziegler, Christine Baurenschmidt, Rebecca Taylor, Sherri Flundra, Carly Moore, Sarah Kun, Monica Warrener, Dale Warrener, Leah Breaky, Caroline Smith, Lyrah St. Denis, Sarah Simpson, Ali Smith, Lisa Janssen, Lindsey Nowicki, Catherine David, Brittany Descotes, Amy West

Quorum: 25 senior members or 5% of total 2024 senior membership (10 members), whichever is less (as per AHTA bylaws). Quorum has been met.

Call to Order at 1:34 p.m.

Introductions of board members.

Adoption of agenda:

- Motion to accept the agenda put forth by Sherri Flundra, seconded by Rebecca Taylor.
- Motion to accept the November 11, 2023 meeting minutes put forth by Renate Price, seconded by Ulrika Wikner.

President's Report – Jessica Kerschbaumer:

- See written report in AGM package.

Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Taylor:

- 2023 Income Statement - see AGM package
 - Membership fees decreased – potential link to moving from the AEF site to HorseReg.
 - Larger amount of AHTA swag ordered in 2023 to replenish stocks.
 - Awards – higher than last year - did not receive year end ribbon invoice until 2024.
 - Added Volunteer Recognition program.
 - Closed USD account, resulting in foreign exchange loss.
 - Reviewed version with budget vs actuals.
- 2023 Balance Sheet – see AGM package
- 2024 Interim Financials – Income Statement – see AGM package
 - A few additions between October 21 and today's date.
 - All additions will be adjusted prior to year end.
 - Dale asked about the comment on purchased headsets for clinicians. He asked how they get to event sites – Rebecca confirmed they're sent with AED and First Aid Kits with the Clinics Chair.
- 2024 Balance Sheet – see AGM package

Membership Report – Jasmine Jarvis:



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- See written report in AGM package.

Clinic Report – Becky Staden/Sherri Flundra:

- Becky apologized for being unable to make the AGM in person.
- Becky spoke to the Leah Breakey Clinic and Sherri Flundra spoke to the Sabrina Glaser Clinic.
- See written report in AGM package.
- Lyrah asked if there are plans to do two clinics again? Jess let her know that's the plan, in addition to the HP clinics.

Athlete Development Report – Kathleen Ziegler:

- See written report in AGM package.
- Two riders have come forward to advise of intention to qualify for 2025 Young Riders Championships based on their winter competition season in the US.

Statistics Report – Carly Moore:

- See charts in AGM package.
- Carly invited any questions from membership on individual results, division level reports (fall, results, etc.) she's more than happy to share. She also invited any requests for different info to be shared at future AGMs.
- Lyrah asked about rides by division and how they compare to pre-2020 numbers.]Carly advised pre-COVID, ride numbers were in the 900s.

Competitions/Safety Report – Christine Baurenschmidt:

- See written report in AGM package.
- Biggest influx into EV100 this year, may correlate to the fall volume in the division.
- Leah asked about the falls and how the warm-up ring was included in there. Carly confirmed they're just from on course falls as warm-up isn't tracked the same way. Leah suggested implementing a way to track falls in the warm-up rings to be able to make an impact on how to address those. Carly said it's possible to track via the TD reports as it's listed in there, so need to be able to get the info from the event organizers and pulled into reporting. It's not been consistent from each organizer each year, which is making it challenging.
- Jessica noted they have quarterly meetings with Equine Canada (EC) and the provincial sport organizations. There is a disconnect in getting this information once Technical Delegates's submit to EC and this has been brought to EC. Leah wondered if we could get that information from the paramedics. Jessica noted AHTA developed our own fall report through the year to encourage jump judges to fill that out effectively and easily - hope to effectively implement it in 2025
- Carly noted the fall information is taken from StartBox which doesn't give information on the specific on the jump. AHTA has asked Rider Reps to gather more information via course maps, self-review, etc. to supplement the info on StartBox.
- Dale commended Christine on acquiring the air quality monitor. He noted with scientific air quality control data, it may help more riders make informed decisions on competing or not.



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Volunteer Report – Renate Price:

- See written report in AGM package.
- AHTA continued efforts to recognize volunteers in 2024. Events require between 850 and 1000 hours to prepare for events.
- Four Winds Saddlery has sponsored a Volunteer of the Year award again this year, which the board thanks them for.
- An increased number of nominations were received through the year by using the online nomination form. Renate encouraged everyone to nominate someone whenever they see them helping.
- Renate asked everyone to thank volunteers throughout the year as they're often un-recognized. This makes a huge difference as we don't want our volunteers to burn out.
- Lyrak asked if it was this year there was an issue with volunteer abuse at an event? Renate was unsure but did note that volunteers are abused often and asked members to step in if they see this happening.
- Sarah Simpson asked what kind of abuse they're getting and if the volunteer was correctly trained or not, as that may be an administration/training issue. Renate acknowledged that could be it but people shouldn't use the volunteer as the outlet. Renate said we're looking at information to share with volunteer (e.g., jump judges) to make sure they have clear direction/information.
- Leah asked if there was a way we could ensure the people in positions that involved in time sensitive (e.g., higher stress) situations are comfortable sharing names of riders with the TD to give a warning. She suggested reinforcing to organizers to pass along messaging to volunteers to report abusive behavior.
- Renate asked for coaches to have the conversations with their students about appropriate treatment and being thankful for volunteers.
- Leah brought up an example at Prentice Creek Horse Trials where there were changes in ride times due to scratches, leading to riders having different times and reports of dressage judges/scribes making inappropriate comments. Renate strongly recommended letting the event organizers know about this feedback, along with filing a report with Equine Canada. Ulrika echoed that it's very important for organizers to know of any misconduct from officials.
- Sarah Simpson asked if the board has laminated cards for the details of each position - AHTA is working on it
- Sarah Kun noted at Cochrane they hand out a piece of paper to jump judges that is very helpful.
- Jessica advised the event evaluation form was only completed 13 times in 2024 and encouraged more people to complete it to provide that feedback as there will be no change unless we know about it. Ulrika also suggested people providing solutions
- Leah explained she had challenges with the event evaluation form and it wouldn't submit due to something being blank or unfilled. Rebecca said the code reset after a certain time and she had to use her computer vs phone.
- Leah asked if there are volunteer meetings before dressage or show jumping like there was before cross country and if so, could they use the rider's name instead of number as it's difficult for coaches to remember all student's numbers.



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- Belinda brought up that there was a video for Cochrane jump judges to watch before volunteering which was an excellent resource.
- Leah asked about 'compensation' for event volunteering – e.g., notes about coach getting a free entry if they have the most volunteers, free stall cleaning or free schooling at the event site - these were suggestions from 2024 AGM noted in the minutes. These are done in the US - not currently offered in AB but were suggestions brought forward. Renate noted we can give suggestions to the organizers but can't mandate what they do.
- Sarah Simpson noted at Rebecca Farm, you get a tee-shirt for volunteering which is a good incentive. Amy notes the swag you get is reflected in the entry fee.
- Sarah Simpson advised what Ulrika does to recruit volunteers for specific roles on Facebook which is very effective, as if she knows ahead of time, she can speak with the families of students who are more willing vs a last-minute request.
- Sarah Kun noted the WhatsApp text group would be helpful to share with volunteers so they're in the loop as well as far as any delays or other issues riders may ask about.
- Monica noted that Ulrika posting the volunteers was also a great way to give them some recognition.

Casino Report – Sherri Flundra

- Next casino will be in Q4 2025 at Pure Casino in Calgary.
- Sherri will remain in the casino organizer position and will continue to recruit volunteers for this.

Elections:

- Directors standing: Jessica Kerschbaumer, Kathleen Ziegler
- Advance nominations: Brittany Descotes, Leah Breakey, Sarah Kun, Ali Smith
- Nominations from the floor: none
- No vote required - Jessica, Kathleen, Brittany, Leah, Sarah, Ali appointed by acclamation

New business:

Organizer's forum:

- Attendees invited to share anything they'd like the board to bring to the meeting tomorrow.
- Leah asked that events make sure to have cross country jumps in the warm-up ring. She understands there could be space limits but even just having a coop in the warm-up would be nice. Renate noted she was the rider rep that weekend and everyone she spoke to had the same feedback. Caroline noted it showed in the number of eliminations and stops at the first and early jumps.
- Sarah Simpson noted she asked Beaumont about it on the day who informed her it wasn't a requirement to have cross-country jumps in the warm-up. She also noted the warm-up ring was small and could be considered dangerous. Renate noted she also spoke to Beaumont about the size of the ring.
- Amy noted she has given feedback on space considerations in the past as well but continues to be a challenge due to cross-country course design.



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- Lisa noted the start box at Beaumont was in the warm-up ring, making it difficult due to horses galloping by while rider/horse combinations are waiting in the box to go.
- Christine noted she'll bring this to the organizer's forum and ask that the warm-up ring be treated as a priority.
- Rebecca acknowledged a huge positive change in the warm-up ring at Prentice vs years prior.
- Sarah Simpson asked how it works with coaching certification in 2025. Do they have to wear something to identify themselves at licensed coaches? Jessica said she isn't sure yet, no changes have been communicated yet from EC, likely the organizer will check when the coach is listed on the event entry.
- Christine noted she doesn't think organizers can see more than we can as the public, so better if all coaches say 'yes' to having their status posted on the EC Coaching website. Sarah Simpson noted she didn't say yes to EC as she doesn't want to solicit more business. Ulrike noted they have to submit their lists to EC who then followed up with some who declared self-coaching.
- Sarah Simpson asked if there's direct communication with EC about coaching status? E.g., a coach in Alberta who had a complaint filed through EC, does EC communicate that through AHTA? Christine notes that you can look it up on the EC website, so there is due diligence on riders/parents to check on this.
- Caroline asked if the handbook could put out who the licensed coaches are, but there may be a challenge with changes throughout the year. Jessica noted there may also be challenges with endorsement of coaches, so sending to EC may be best.
- Sarah Simpson said it is interesting how you don't need a coach but if you have a coach, they do need to be licensed which is an interesting dichotomy. Jessica advised that was discussed at EC meetings and EC noted it's in line with compliance with Sport Canada from a liability standpoint.
- Christine cautioned people against sideline coaching as there is liability involved and it's not worth taking the risk on. She encourages people to get licensed and make it clear they have their license. We'll continue to encourage the organizers to be on top of it. Sarah Simpson noted she has coaches working for her that are covered under her coaching insurance – these people can coach at her barn and other shows, but it's unclear what they're allowed to do at events.
- Renate asked what happens when you have a conflict and need someone else to step in and coach. If licensed, not a problem – if not licensed, it can be. Christine noted that's a question for EC.

Results

- Belinda asked if there is a way for results to get entered into the EC system as right now, you have to go event by event. Jessica says as per EC horse licensing it's only tracked for EV100 and above currently. Carly volunteered to help her out. Jessica noted EC has plans to incorporate lower levels at some point in the future which would require all horses to need recording.
- Carly asked if a spreadsheet for Alberta riders could help? Group agreed it could be valuable. Creating a whole database may be cost prohibitive.

EV65

- Monica suggested the gap between EV60 and EV75 is too large and asked for consideration of a change to EV65.



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- Jessica confirmed that this is within AHTA's jurisdiction since each province governs and set their own parameters for anything under EV85, and we could make a motion on this today and make a change. She also noted we could vote on warm-up ring set-ups.
- The group discussed having an oxer in the starter warm-up could also be an option to increase their exposure.
- Renate asked if the gap between EV60 and 75 is too big? Sarah Simpson noted 60 is good as some kids wouldn't be able to do that division at EV65. Ulrika spoke to level creep, asking if this could lead to needing EV55 or trot a trail? Sarah noted some of the little houses on EV60 are challenge for the littler ones, and they can stay at that level until they're ready. It can be a challenge for a 12 HH pony.
- Amy noted show jump oxers would be easier to introduce than the cross country jump change.
- Leah suggested perhaps the oxers are added first this year, then explore the 5 cm higher jump next year. Jessica said we could further specify what percentage of jumps at which height.
- Kelsey asked Christine for their heights – 69/77 in BC, 60/78 in Ontario and 60/75 in Quebec.
- Ulrika noted the jumps don't need to max out so they may not actually make the changes to the jump height. When she sees the kids schooling, they are jumping all the 60 and 75 jumps and it's when you have to put it all together that it could be challenging. They could consider blocking some up a little bit but wouldn't make brand new jumps.
- Lyrach suggested with the idea of bringing grassroots in, we shouldn't increase to 65. Increasing the height may decrease the incentive to start eventing.
- Leah made a motion to add oxers lower than maximum height to the EV60 show jump courses, up to a maximum of 25% of the course. The oxer should not be the first fence and the course should be inviting and progressive. Seconded by Renate. All in favor.

Warm-up rings

- Leah motioned to add oxers to starter warm-up rings for cross country. Sarah Simpson seconded the motion. All in favor.

Vets at finish lines

- Caroline brought up the discussion from 2023 and asked if we need vets at finish lines and would removing that requirement decrease costs.
- It was discussed at the organizer's forum and determined it remained a valuable resource.
- Caroline noted that Alberta is the only place in North America who has a vet at the finish line, except for FEI events.
- Christine noted that since you still have to have a vet at the event it would be a good use of their time. Discussion around if a vet needs to be on call or on site - on call is accepted as per EC rules with certain stipulations.
- Ali asked how much the vet costs. Ulrika said around \$1000. Lyrach noted Cochrane typically gets Burwash Vet to fully sponsor their time at the event (e.g., no cost).
- Sarah Kun suggested having a vet on site is a good investment and not a place to cut costs.
- Jessica suggested organizers give guidelines to vets for consistency. Christine replied they're medical professionals and should trust their opinion. Renate noted it needs to be clear the vet is



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not an official and they don't have the authority to make the decision and needs to work with their TD. Christine suggested a policy be developed.

- Lyrah asked about based on the point about talking to individuals, could there be something written that if a vet had any concerns about the horse, the TD has to then be radioed in, have the discussion in the moment and TD makes the decision? Jessica thinks that may already be laid out with EC rules.
- Monica said they've had vet interns and vet techs do the checks. They've been really good about asking what's needed and they prep them with instructions on what to do, including when to radio someone. Monica also reviewed all the documentation after the day to see if there's anything to be concerned about. Suggestion for organizer to communicate with vet about accepted practices (recovery heart rate) after cross country, especially if they are new to eventing vet duties, so that it is more standard across the board at events.

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.