

Ontario Eventing Association Board of Directors Meeting
Aug 9th 2021
Draft Minutes

Present: Ann Neal, Justin Ridgewell, Terri Hough-Gilmour, Veronica Low, Cheryl Denault, Caroline Abrahams, Char Hodgson, Sarah Richardson, Kelly Gravelle, Laura McGuire

Regrets: Selena O’Hanlon, Kendal Lehari, Doug Topalovic, Nikki Maclellan

Call to Order: 7:08 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

Veronica moved, Cheryl seconded and it was carried to approve the agenda.

Veronica moved, Laura seconded and it was carried to approve the July 13th minutes.

2. Matters for Discussion

No specific matters other than awareness of the recent Horse Sport article related to concerns around EC and the EC Eventing Committee.

3. Treasurers Report

Cheryl noted that financials are posted. Expenses are running a little light. We are operating at a slight loss with the clinics but at the end of the year we expect the Adult Rider funds to offset this. We are encouraged that clinics and schooling days are doing very well. She also noted that we are sold out of frangibles. There should be 25 frangibles installed on courses this year.

4. Committee Reports

a. Governance & Policy

Ann noted that there is not much new to report. At the time of the meeting, she had not yet heard from Nottawasaga about a refund for this year now that we’ve cancelled our 2021 banquet.

Caroline provided an overview of the most recent membership statistics. As of August we are at 1143 members and getting close to levels in 2015 when we had the Pan Am games. Veronica suggested she could put a few lines together to accompany a post about this.

b. Communications

Char noted that there is not a lot to update. Start times are getting posted on the website. She is continuing to send out blasts about closing dates and other relevant updates. Ann suggested that we should promote the EV1.05. Cheryl requested that we create a Facebook event for the Bronte Schooling Day in September.

c. Sport Development

Young Rider/U25:

We have just over 80 members. Veronica is going to finish updating the leaderboard to put on the website. We also have travel and training grants that have to be written up and posted. She emphasized that the focus of the program is on safety and this has been conveyed to riders. For Tryon, we are not sure we can put together a full 3-star team so we are investigating to see if we can do a blended team with another province. She mentioned the creation of a new award, donated Roar of \$500 for sportsmanship/horsemanship. It will be decided on by the riders as well as committee members and selectors. The YR Auction for Tryon raised just over \$9,000 was a huge success, and currently working on getting the prizes out.

Ann pointed out that the proposed award from Roar needs parameters about criteria and selection and it needs to go forward to the Board for a vote.

Action: Veronica to develop a motion for the new award.

It was also noted that a sponsor has donated a saddle to the YR with the most improved dressage score over the season.

Adult Riders:

They are taking advantage of clinics. Nothing further to report.

Coaching:

No report

Schooling Days:

Sarah reported on two successful schooling days at Steven's Creek. To date there is no decision on a Wits End Schooling Day. It was also suggested that there may be more venues interested in Dressage Schooling Days in the late winter/early spring of 2022.

d. Competitions

Organizers:

It was noted that Glenarden and WilloWind switched dates. They appeared to work it out between themselves although OEA was eventually brought in to the discussion. Members discussed the need to revisit the OEA Competition Date Selection policy as we have run into several challenges this year with a number of date switches which aren't also fair for organizers.

Action: Cheryl suggested that when we review, we look at FEI dates as well as Intermediate and Preliminary.

Volunteers:

No Report

Officials

EC is well aware of the lack of officials and has started to launch programs to attract more candidates and to fast track those who have partial qualifications.

Action: Terri and Ann to initiate the process for Terri's credentialing.

Further discussion ensued about the importance of safety in the sport and whose responsibility it is to ensure riders and coaches are competing as safely as possible. It was noted that the EC card system is the lever to officially remind riders and coaches of this. OEA may want to pursue some education of our members about this process and to remind officials of their ability to use this mechanism when they have concerns.

Action: OEA to develop posts on the importance of safety, knowing the rules and penalties/carding.

5. Other Matters

Thoroughbred Incentive Program (TIP) Ann looking after this for now but very much needs another member to take it over for the next season.

Frangibles: We are out of frangibles other than the two on hold for Wits End. We may need to place another order. It was also noted that organizers owe us photos so they can get their reimbursement. We are very proud of this program – we didn't get great co-operation but now we're sold out.

Action: We agreed that we should pursue this program next year (note that we'll need a motion)

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on September 13th, 2021