

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Central East Trillium Hunter Jumper Association held on March 1, 2020 at Pickering Horse Centre, Paddock Road, Pickering Ontario

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*Members in Attendance:* Jacqueline Bapooji, Kate Briggs, Ken Denouden, Adrienne Fader, Robyn Freer, Lucy Gilbert, Jess Glassford, Ellen Gowland, Brandon Hall, Mary Hickling, Belinda LaBelle, Wendy Lawlor, Pam MacGregor, Karen Medd, Heather Milovanovic, Julie Morris, Joanna Niles, Kady Paterson, Christine Reupke, Amanda Schickendance, Carolyn Stark, Julie Tremblay, Emily Wulff, Danielle Yaghdjan, Gary Yaghdjian,

**PROCEEDINGS:**

**1. WELCOME**

The 2019 Central East THJA President, Ken Denouden, called the meeting to order at 3 pm.

**2. QUORUM**

Ken Denouden reported that a sufficient number of members were present for quorum for an Annual Meeting of Members.

**3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

It was acknowledged that horse show managers would declare a conflict of interest when it becomes relevant.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved as distributed at the meeting.

**5. ADOPTION OF THE 2019 AGM MINUTES**

AGM 2019 Minutes available on the CE THJA website, no hard copies available at the meeting.

**6. REPORT/APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS/ACCOUNTANTS**

Auditors will be appointed at the request of the membership. This request can take place following the Treasurer's report.

## **7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Ken Denouden**

For the 2020 show season, the 1060 venue will have an additional (second) horse show. This will bring the minimum required number of shows to qualify for Championships to seven. If a division does not run at any show, then the total qualifying count for that division will be lowered to fifty percent of completed divisions.

There are no major changes planned to Championships 2020 and the date is the same weekend. The Mad Barn jumper challenge was a big success, and will continue again this year.

Ken invited comments from the floor. Remarks included:

Show season **cost reduction** – is there an opportunity for riders who can't compete in every show to have an opportunity to compete for a year-end prize?

- Suggestions: reduce the number of shows involved the points calculation for Banquet ribbons (take the best five shows, for example). Championship Points are managed by the Ontario board and cannot be changed.

What weight does the Board place on the **survey results**? Survey results showed that members wanted fewer shows however, an additional one was planned. Members shared their thoughts on the overall number of shows in the CE Zone including the following comments:

- The position of the Board of Directors is that horse show organizers cannot be forced to give up horse shows, however, CE does not have to make all shows count.
- Riders can democratically decide which shows they want to attend. Show managers base their decisions on profitability and if attendance is reduced the overall number of shows may decline.
- There is a trend across the industry in North America of picking interesting horse shows, different experience, rather than "picking a circuit".
- Ultimately, the onus is on riders and trainers to make each show a positive experience through personal goal setting and team building

## **8. TREASURER'S REPORT, Carolyn Stark**

Copies of the Balance Sheet were distributed for review and show that the Zone is in a strong financial position. 2019 was the first year we did not reimburse medic fees to horse shows and that, combined with strong banquet revenue, has resulted in a positive year-end variance of \$15,000. There are accounts receivable from two barns for 2019 sponsorship. This is what accounts for the accounts payable on the balance sheet, but this is considered to be low risk.

The goal for 2020 is to find a way to spend surplus in a way that benefits Zone members. Ideas to date include specialty classes, additional year-end gifts or awards and a clinic.

2020 will have a more expensive banquet venue and improved prizing. Organizers are required to pay deposits and expenses in advance of banquet revenues being received from ticket sales and sponsorships. The surplus revenue gives a cushion to allow the Zone to maintain cash flow. The 2018 tax report is available for the membership's review.

The 2019 financial statements were accepted unanimously as presented.

Treasurer invited comments and questions from the floor.

- Is the reserve meant to be a rainy day fund or seed money for different projects?
  - A bit of both, ideally keep a \$10 000 reserve and invest the rest back into projects to benefit members.
  - The Board will look into investing some or all of the reserve fund into a high interest/high yield account or bond.
- Banquet sponsorship
  - Identified that there could be higher return on investment for sponsors at banquet in terms of acknowledgement and promotion

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Banquet***

The banquet is being moved to Markham Convention Center, more centrally located to the barns. It is also a bigger venue with more flexibility and has the all-important staircase for photos. Sponsorship was great last year, but the committee is already

talking to lots of sponsors and ensuring acknowledgments are accurate and appropriate for level of sponsorship. The committee is very open to suggestions about sponsors and prizes.

The committee is also looking for a new ticket host to reduce the costs of EventBrite, which cost \$4000 last year in fees. Both tix123 and Quickbooks were suggested and will be investigated.

## **10. Elections**

### **10.1.Appointment of scrutineers**

The Secretary, appointed Tracy Paterson and Jeremy as Scrutineers for the meeting. They are not members of CE THJA.

### **10.2.Election & Appointment of Directors & Officers**

#### **President**

Ken Denouden was nominated by Karen Medd, and accepted his nomination on the basis that it would be one term. Belinda LaBelle was nominated by Emily Wulff, and accepted on the same term.

Belinda LaBelle wins President, one year term

#### **Vice-President**

Gary Yaghdjian is de facto vice-president with no contention.

#### **Secretary**

Kady Paterson is de facto secretary with no contention.

#### **Directors**

Emily Wulff will stand again.

Ken Denouden nominated for member at large.

Brandon Hall nominated for member at large.

Emily Wulff nominated for member at large.

Amanda Schickedanz nominated for member at large.

Christine Repuke nominated for member at large.

There was discussion over how many directors we are allowed, but it is established that the Board determines how many members at large there may be. It is decided to just have six, and Ken is automatically on the board ex-officio as past president.

Emily Wulff, Ken Denouden, Brandon Hall, Amanda Schickedanz, Christine Repuke were all elected as directors at large.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**12. TERMINATION**

The meeting was terminated at 4:03pm.

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President

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Secretary