

**THE HORSEMEN'S BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING  
HELD IN THE Boardroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level of HASTINGS RACECOURSE,  
VANCOUVER, BC on January 19, 2020**

HBPA of BC Vice-President Gary Johnson, serving as the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

a) Officers of the Association

David Milburn---President (absent with cause)  
Steve Henson---Vice-President (via teleconference)  
Gary Johnson---Vice-President  
Neil Stajkowski---Secretary-Treasurer

b) Directors of the Association

Philip Hall (via teleconference)	Barb Heads (via teleconference)
Mary Anne Baumgartner	Nancy Betts
Michael Bye (absent with cause)	Warren Wilson (at 11:00 am)
Ed Claggett (absent with cause)	Linda Lytle

Gary announced that David was ill and would not be attending. Neil said that Michael had a family conflict and Ed was also absent for health reasons.

**Item 1 - Minutes**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the HBPA Board Meeting held on October 26, 2019 as circulated. (moved Linda/seconded Mary Anne– approved without dissent)

Current Committee Assignments (From January 2019) are as follows:

**Audit, Finance & Insurance** - Warren Wilson

**Benevolence, Dental, Grievance, & Winners Foundation** - Steve Henson and MaryAnne Baumgartner

**Condition Book, Stakes, & Interior** - Barbara Heads, Nancy Betts and Philip Hall

**CTHS Liaison** - Gary Johnson

**Feed Store** - Warren Wilson

**Jockey Issues** - MaryAnne Baumgartner and Mel Snow (non-director appointment)

**Learning Center** - David Milburn and Philip Hall

**New Stride Liaison** - Linda Lytle

**Scholarship** - Linda Lytle

**Strategic Planning & Special Initiatives** - Gary Johnson and David Milburn

**Track, Stall, & Medications** - Nancy Betts, Philip Hall, Barbara Heads, MaryAnne Baumgartner and Rob Maybin (non-director appointment)

**Rules & Appeals** - Ed Claggett

**Website & Newsletter** - Michael Bye

**Racing Financials** - Michael Bye and Neil Stajkowski

## **Item 2 – Executive Reports**

- 1) Budget/Industry Report - The Chair reported generally on the overall budget. Slot revenues being down across the province has impacted the funds available for the Horse Racing Industry. The budget is being impacted by roughly \$500,000 in reduced revenues. Regula Purses will not be impacted; however, Stakes Race Purses will be changed. A total of \$250,000 will be cut from these race purses. Gary said he would take any questions to David for answers to ensure the details are correct. Two questions were raised: For stake races, will the \$600 nomination fee be added to the purse total for the \$30,000 stake races? And are there any changes to nomination fees for reduced purse stake races.
- 2) Rail Report – Gary and Neil reported on the progress of the new Rail installation. It is on time and may be complete earlier than February 10, weather permitting. The old rail has been removed and posts are laid out. It was asked if they have enough labour help, Gary commented that GCGC hired a couple of experienced builders for the project and so that it not an issue.
- 3) Rule Changes – Gary reported on the discussions between David and HBPA-AB concerning a memorandum circulated commenting on some of the US jurisdiction changes to some on-track horse related rules like crop changes and Lasix usage. Gary reported that David’s view, which was agreed by the Executive, was to wait and see and let the larger tracks determine when or if these type of rule changes will need to be implemented in BC.
- 4) And 5) Gary reported on the most recent discussions concerning marketing with GCGC and TBC (insert report) He also reported on some of the recent GCGC staff changes and some views on what their next steps may be corporately.

## **Item 3 – Committee Reports**

- i) Feed Store – Warren provided a Feed Store report noted that sales were up in 2019 which demonstrates more horses at the track. Accounts Receivable were up but there is an expectation that payments will still come in before the end of March and bad debts will not be much different than in 2018. There was a discussion about purchase incentives and rebates and Warren said that there will be ideas to discuss at the March Board meeting once more analysis and options are considered.

Neil commented that he has purchased a new computer per the Board’s motion and expects to have it set up in the next few weeks. He also raised the idea of moving the location to the top end of the backstretch, but it was early days as the feasibility had not been fully vetted and full discussions with Glen and Joanne have not yet occurred.

- ii) Scholarship – Linda reported on a recently made scholarship request. She said that it came from a long time HBPA member for a student who after taking some time off was returning to university to complete the final year of their degree. She added that had she applied in the

years missed, she would have been entitled to a \$2000 scholarship and for \$1000 with the group in 2019. She said the budget was already fully paid out in 2019 and so this is a budget extra.

MOTION: To approve an additional \$1000 HBPA scholarship as presented by Linda in the 2019 budget year. (moved Linda/seconded Mary Anne, approved without dissent)

- iii) Awards Dinner – Warren said that other than some aspect of the food presented, the awards dinner was a success and a small profit was earned. He added that a move back a week into November will allow for a more preferred buffet not the seasonal buffet provided this year. He said that Newlands does meet the needs for the event and so that will be the plan for 2020. Gary asked if a move of the photographer could work as he found the noise disruptive to other speakers. Warren said he would discuss with Newlands to see if there are other workable options.

#### **Item 4 – Groom Advertising Update**

Neil reported that the provided groom advertisement is being posted on electronic job boards locally, in Western Canada and with youth, first nation and immigrant focused sites. He said he will consolidate the list and send out to all trainers who are considering hiring. He added that a groom school is a possibility if there is enough interest and Darren MacDonald has agreed to fund.

#### **Item 5 – Racing Clubs Update**

Neil reported on the recent discussions and decision to go with one club of 400 members at \$300 per member. He said the final numbers are being agreed upon, however, Club 1 ended up in a deficit of about \$6000 that will be covered by racing industry management. Club 2 members will receive a \$150 dividend. The application form has been approved, the 3 managers are remaining for 2020 and Glen Todd also provided an additional \$5000 for marketing of the race clubs.

Gary also mentioned the increased support in terms of incentives that TBC is prepared to supply the clubs with new HPI signups. There will be more information coming with regard to the Clubs as information is put together to develop an asset ownership syndicate in the future.

#### **Item 6 – HBPA Contractor Update**

Gary reported that BCTOBA is prepared to cover 50% of the monthly contract rate of Lorne to continue providing services to members on the backstretch and provide any necessary liaison with Hastings Racing management.

MOTION: To approve a 9 month contract for Lorne Mitchell at a rate of \$1500 per month, funded 50% by BCTOBA. (moved Linda /seconded Steve, approved without dissent)

#### **Item 7 – Board Meeting Dates**

Neil said he put these dates together more of a placeholder and planning idea that to create a nailed down schedule. Gary said he has discussed the dates with President Milburn, and they agreed that March 2 Board meeting, September 19 board meeting and the October 13 Annual General Meeting dates worked while the other dates don't.

Gary added that there is an expectation to have a trainer and a separate owner focused meeting in June to address some of the matters that are specific to each group. All members will be welcomed to attend both meetings.

Neil added that he has had discussions with Michael on some website improvements that will include an active calendar for members, so they are better informed on key dates.

**Item 8 – Other Business**

It was generally asked if Board members had heard about Tom Wolski suffering a heart attack and hospitalized in Florida. No information was known. (subsequently it was learned that he was hospitalized, and he passed away on January 21)

**Item 9 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.