

BC EVENTING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Zoom Virtual Meeting
November 26, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

Board of Directors in Attendance: Julie Johannson, Debbie Dorosh, Ian MacLean, Jan Mills, Bob Mason, Maeve Drew, Carol McDonald, Kathleen Weare, Brandy Saunders, Sarah McKenzie, Nicole Kovacik, Sue Kovacik, Lynda Ramsay.

Absent: none

Recording Secretary: Jan Mills

1. **Call to Order** - meeting called to order @ 9:05 am by Julie Johannson, President.
Julie welcomes all attendees, it's so nice to see all the faces. The board of directors introduces themselves. Everyone please refer to the package you received by email. We will not read all the reports that have been included in the package and trust everyone has read the reports enclosed.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – addition of BC summer games update under new business following Election of New Directors.

MOTION: accept agenda with addition. Maeve Drew/Sarah McKenzie, carried.

3. **Minutes of December 11, 2021 HTBC AGM by Zoom** –

MOTION: to accept minutes of December 11, 2021 AGM as circulated by email. Kathleen Weare/Lynda Ramsay, carried.

4. **Scrutineers Report – Jan** – return to this after Presidents report. 38 in attendance, 34 eligible to vote.
5. **Business Arising from 2021 AGM Minutes** – none

6. **Presidents Report** – report as read by Julie Johannson. (condensed version typed)

This year we forged ahead with some long-awaited competitions and camps as the world slowly works its way to whatever the new normal is. Nice to see our alumni back home with Rebecca Howard coaching at Adult Rider camp. We were also able to watch Dana Cooke compete in Italy this year. BC Summer Games went ahead in Prince George in July. There were 10 riders in Eventing that rode a derby course. Thanks to PG for working hard to make this competition amazing for the riders. Thanks to our supporting board members who volunteered their time – Lynda Ramsay, Ian MacLean, Debbie Dorosh, Maeve Drew and Brandy Saunders. We are future focused this year and have been working closely with Equestrian Canada and HCBC to find ways to bring grass roots competitions to more parts of our Province. We need to support new opportunities for our members in the years to come. There are lots of ideas and lots of interest so stay tuned as we roll into the new year. Our board of directors met in October for the first time since 2019. I want to thank each and every one for your commitment to the sport of Eventing in BC and for the hours of work you put in to keep the sport active and going. I want to thank the Holmes-Smith family for their hard work and dedication over the years. Life is taking them in a new direction and they will no longer hold their fabulous event. I'd also like to thank Ali for her hard work on the board. If you have an idea, suggestion or something to share please reach out. We can't wait to greet everyone in person at our 2023 banquet!

Treasurers Report –report as circulated by email - Ian

Since financial information has been distributed here is a summary.

1. BCEA's year end is the 15th of October.
2. Current bank balance and GIC in all accounts totals just over \$110,000; this time last year it was just over \$97,000.
3. We have no accounts receivable and \$3,200 in payables.

4. One thing that doesn't show because it happened after year end is that we will owe approximately \$5,000 for ribbons and prizes for our year-end high point awards.
 5. Note that we no longer collect head fees from event organizers; neither do we distribute Organizer Funding Top Ups after the year ended 15 October 2021.
 6. The separate funds we used to maintain for Enhancement, Course Development etc. have been eliminated. Funding for items that previously came from those funds will be allocated in the BCEA budget every year.
- Myself and the program treasurers are happy to answer financial questions.

Sabrina Glaser: what is the cost of the directors meeting recently held in Whistler, I don't see it in the financials?

Julie: the Whistler meeting is in next years' books, the financials being shared currently are for yearend Oct 15/22. Standard cost for these face to face meetings is approximately \$3000. We chose Whistler as shoulder season offered greatly reduced rates and it was a convenient location for most directors.

Sabrina Glaser: I felt disappointed and discouraged when notified that I won a yearend award and that there would not be a banquet/gathering to hand out awards. So discouraging, with Covid over and still no yearend banquet. Globally our sport is suffering. The initiative of getting people excited about it is coming but we need to do more. If funding was the concern to cancel the awards banquet then I'd like to propose another idea. We could hold a gathering in my indoor arena, have a place where everyone can get together, foster the sport and feel the camaraderie. Some of the best times are not the competition but the celebration of our riders. I don't know where this stands but I'd like to offer my place, maybe Dec 10th. I have a loud speaker for music, we could order pizza etc. I would love the support of the board and this be a BC Eventing gathering. If there are physical awards they could be handed them out there.

Julie: thanks Sabrina, we appreciate the offer of your facility. We will never say no to an opportunity to celebrate our group & our sport. It mirrors what we would like to have in a perfect world.

Jan: shared the process we'd gone through in arranging our AGM and Year End awards banquet. It was a process that proved very difficult on the heels of Covid but with it still lingering. We had Harrison booked but at the time we were to sign the contract this spring there was still so much uncertainty that we felt we couldn't risk the funds of BCEA by locking into a contract that could potentially cost the organization a significant amount of money should we be unable to hold the banquet. Our concern at that time was the potential of not enough competitions to have awards and without awards we wouldn't have the people attend the banquet. When you sign a contract with a hotel we are making a commitment to them for the dinner etc. The hotel contracts have not changed over the years however there's never been the threat of cancellation before and just what that would mean to the organization. We tried again in the summer to choose a hotel in Chilliwack and proceed with the AGM and banquet in person. We ended up in the same position with terrible timing when it came time to sign on the dotted line. It was a decision that was not made lightly to have one more year with a zoom AGM. It is our hope that 2023 will see us together again to celebrate our membership and their accomplishments. Stay tuned as plans for November 2023 unfold.

7. **HTBC Committee Reports** – (condensed version typed)

- a) **Website, Nicole Kovacik** – the committee utilized our new BCEA website and social media channels to relay information. Our Facebook page is linked to the website which makes the website a central location for information about BC Eventing. We encourage you to interact with our social media pages and please send up pictures from the past season so we can share them to our website and media pages. Please reach out if you have questions or feedback.
- b) **Membership, Carol McDonald** – memberships can be purchased online on the HCBC website. There has been some confusion of which BCEA membership to purchase. We are working with HCBC to revise the wording to better help members. You are able to donate to BCEA through the HCBC membership portal. There are 365 members, down from 428 in 2019. There were 26 temporary memberships purchased, down from 38 in 2019.
- c) **Young Rider, Brandy Saunders** – this is the first year that BC was represented in the BC Summer Games, held in Prince George in July. There were challenges but the way the teams came together to support each other was amazing. The next BC Summer Games will be held in maple Ridge in 2024.

We are working on rebuilding post Covid and offering educational opportunities to the BCYR members. There will be spring clinic subsidies, return of the Jordan McDonald YR bursary, YR camp, BC Summer Games development and more.

- d) **Organizers, Carol McDonald/Lynda Ramsay** – organizers tried to find normal post Covid. The long wet spring forced the cancellation of the May MREC. Continued heavy rains in June forced MREC to cancel the cross country phase at the June event. Mustang Powder was not offered due to the very busy schedules of Nick & Ali Holmes-Smith. Happily they will be open to hosting clinics. Organizers have submitted their dates for the 2023 season, these dates are posted on the website. BCEA is also working to support organizers across the province to offer low level, non-EC sanctioned eventing focused competitions and schooling days.
- e) **Scholarships** – the Mary Swanson scholarship of \$500 was awarded to Kya Zoretich. Congratulations Kya!
- f) **High Performance – Sarah McKenzie** – plans for 2023 include finding funding pathways for our HP riders. We take feedback from our riders to aid in supporting them in progress towards achieving their goals.
- g) **Education, Debbie Dorosh** – we offered an Education clinic combined with Young Riders in May at Chase Creek. The clinic was full with 120 riders. Out of Province coach Sandra Donnelly worked with 5 BC coaches. May 18 -21, 2023 has been set for Chase Creek
- h) **Funding, Kathleen Weare** – the committee went through some changes this year and there has been some changes for organizers. Moving forward we'd like to obtain sponsorship funding from outside corporate sponsors to expand the program. We'd like to support individuals in their continuing education and have more officials, TD's, Course Designers etc.
- i) **Championships & Awards, Nicole Kovacik** – exciting to see the year move ahead post Covid. We did however encounter some weather challenges which had MREC cancelling cross-country at the May & June HT's. We adapted and ran a modified Championship at Island22. There was not an in person awards banquet however we went ahead with our year end awards to acknowledge and celebrate our BC Eventers. Ribbons & prizes will be mailed out and award winners will be listed on the BCEA website.
- j) **Adult Rider, Brandy Saunders** – we ran a clinic in August at Chase Creek with headliner coach Rebecca Howard along with 2 BC coaches. Our goal moving forward is member engagement throughout the year in hopes to spark more interest and increase members.
- k) **AGM, Jan Mills** – the AGM was hosted through Zoom for the 3rd year. It was a tough decision but in the spring when the financial commitment was to be made to Harrison Hot Springs Resort there was still too much uncertainty in our world and the weight of financial responsibility to the organization became priority. It is our hope and plan to run and in person AGM & Awards Banquet in 2023 to celebrate and honour our members.
- l) **Safety, Rules & Officials – Lynda Ramsay** – only a few rule changes in 2022. For 2023 there will be new dressage tests offered, 2 for each level. Organizers may also use the old tests. EC has changed the names of the divisions. BCEA hopes to offer educational opportunities to Officials in 2023. Check the website.
- m) **Sponsorship - Kathleen Weare** – the committee has struggled with where potential sponsorship \$'s would be allocated and mapping a program for the sponsors. We've had good ideas with possibilities for a new direction. The program continues to evolve and hopes we will have secured corporate sponsorship for the upcoming season.

*MOTION: to accept committee reports as circulated. Darcie Kerkoven/Ian MacLean, carried.
Voting done through show of hands.*

Election of New Directors – 9 director seats up for election, all 9 are 2 year terms. Debbie Dorosh, Ian MacLean, Jan Mills, Sarah McKenzie, Lynda Ramsay, Kathleen Weare, Nicole Kovacik are willing to let their names stand. Ron Trickett & Ali Holmes-Smith have stepped off the board.

- Nominations from the floor – Katy Ostberg & Sara Sellmer. 9 names put forward and accepted by acclimation.
- Thank you to Ron Trickett and Ali Holmes-Smith for their valuable work on the board. Welcome to Katy & Sara and I look forward to working with everyone in the next year.

- Secret vote through Election Runner was not required, elected by acclamation.

We did so much work in whistler discussing ways to inspire our sport and keep it alive. We have had conversations with HCBC and EC to help us fit the mold to move forward. We need meaningful competition for everyone from lower level to upper level competition. We've been thinking outside the box learning from what our organizers are already doing. There are schooling competitions that are already running and are quite successful in what we are trying to capture. We are trying to create opportunities and there are a lot of people who are interested but need a way in through the grassroots area. We are looking to the North, Kootenay's and Island. We are looking at ways to support the sport differently – looking at schooling opportunities and talking to HCBC about how we can put things into place. Stay tuned as we have things that are coming together. We are literally brainstorming of what we can do rather than what we can't do. We want to open our sport in a different way even though it may not be the full spectrum of the sport we can work from there. We want more opportunities, more venues etc. We are working with other groups. Ways to support our current organizers and new opportunities. We are trying to find traction into different areas. We have done a lot of work so keep your eyes on the website and social media. We have also applied for a couple of grants to help grow the sport and grow the volunteer base. It takes a village. Always looking for new venues and opportunities. We are trying to work with everyone we do know and keep the door open for all. Once we have a more solid foundation we will share with the membership. We want meaningful competition for higher levels and more opportunity for lower levels to come and join us. We are very aware of where we sit and are working hard as a board of directors to find ways to grow the sport moving forward. Get everyone together and bring more opportunities.

Jaimie Kidston: wondering if part of the discussion would be along the lines of summarizing the knowledge of our current and past organizers? It would be helpful to new venues and schooling opportunities to have ideas to help get started.

Julie: you read our minds, this is exactly what we are working on. We are trying to put together a fulsome package of how to get started, officials, cost effective etc for just the reason you bring up. We want to support local groups and you are totally on point with what we are working on.

Jaimie: she's heard the hunter/jumper group are putting together a little circuit and what do we think about that.

Julie: yes we are thinking outside the box and trying to put something like that together. Reflecting back to 20 years ago and how can we recreate some of the same feel of what we used to have. Thank you Jaimie for your comments, this really lets us know we are heading in the right direction with our thoughts and plans.

- 8. New Business** – BC Summer Games Update – this year was the first year we were part of the BC Summer games. This was an amazing time, competitors had fun and it was amazing to see

Paillie did presentation

Maeve talked about the experience.

Julie – thanks so much for sharing with us Paile. We are looking forward to the next games at MREC. So exciting, fun and enriching for all. Maeve was the head coach for all disciplines and Brandy was a zone coach. These ladies gave up going to Rebecca to attend the summer games and we had the best coaches there! Not only do we grow great riders but we grow amazing coaches. Thanks so much for the presentation, we are thrilled to have you with us today.

Special presentations – Mary Swanson scholarship. This year to Kya Zortich. We want to acknowledge Kya, the application was great.

Give 2 honorary life memberships this year – to Len Kirby and Margo Kozak for all they have done for us over the year and we are pleased to add them as honorary life members to BCEA.

Year End awards – Nicole Kovacik - we are sorry we aren't doing this in person but in the mean time we will honor them today. Shout out to Lisa Thompson who's doing barn chores during the meeting! We are happy to have you all hear. It would be wonderful to do this in person maybe at Sabrina's on Dec 10th. Nicole made a powerpoint of all winners. It started out hairy with weather challenges but we did end up with 4 competitions in the end. Nicole read out the award winners. Intermediate/Prelim Senior/Prelim Jr/Training Sr/Training Jr/Pre Training Sr/Pre Training Jr/Entry Jr/Entry Sr/Pre Entry Jr/Pre Entry Sr

Congratulations to all, that wraps up our award winners. We look forward to seeing you all in 2023 and thank you to all.

Julie: thank you Nicole for putting that together and we will put it up on our website. We are proud of our riders and we feel honored to celebrate them. We would love to honor them in person and maybe we can do that with Sabrina's idea. We look forward to celebrating in person and we thank you all for being part of this today.

Open the floor to questions, thoughts, concerns. Any stories to share.

New award/idea: Leslie McGill - This year I want to bring in a new award/idea. I want to choose three events, the last one being the final for the award. Its going to be for Parent and child teams. Doesn't matter what level it will be based solely on scores added up. So mom and daughter, mom and son, dad and kid.... any levels. Three competitions, two with basic awards and the third will be a big award all sponsored by The Saddle Doctor.

I also vote that we bring back teams, when I was younger we had teams at every event and it added a lot of extra excitement. Have a look at what Dressage BC is doing now with teams - really increased interest in the sport... its been very exciting being a part of that with Leslie Reid and Wendy Christoff.

Margo asked about Championships – those were awarded at Island 22 on site so because we are on zoom we only dealt with the yearend awards.

Leslie McGill: also we need to bring back more team work towards young riders championships. Alberta seems to be doing a lot. Helps gets the kids focused on qualifying etc. We used to have The Talent Squad etc..

Door prizes – Jan – we will put all attendee names in a draw and pull 10 names during our next directors meeting for door prize GC's. Jan will mail them out to winners and names will be posted on the website.

Julie: we thank everyone for attending today and we hope to hear from you in the future and hope to see you soon in person. Will the BOD please stay on the zoom call so we can have a quick Post AGM meeting and welcome our new directors to the board.

9. Adjournment:

MOTION: to adjourn meeting. Sara Sellmer/Bob Mason, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 am