

2021 HBPA Board Elections

Owner Nominee Bios

Dated: August 7, 2021

Danard, Don



I have owned and bred many racehorses since 1974. I worked on the backstretch when I was a 14-year-old, and so my love of the horses has been with me for many years. I have been fortunate enough to win stake races in BC, Alberta and elsewhere. Horse racing has always been a very big part of our lives, as a family.

I have stood as President, past president, and as an owner/ director of the HBPA of Alberta board over the past 24 years. I have been honored with a lifetime achievement award for thoroughbred racing in Alberta. Horse racing is facing challenging times ahead and I want to contribute and be a part of the process going forward.

Edwards, Tia



This industry is important to myself and my family because of our love of thoroughbred horses and the racing industry. We have invested much into the racing and breeding in BC. I would like to be involved in the operations of the HBPA to give back to the industry that has given us such pleasure.

I have managed Willow Creek Farms racing along with the breeding aspect for the past 5 years. I would like to bring my skills as a company owner to assist in the long-term success of racing at Hasting Racecourse. My goal of being part of the HBPA is to sustain the racing industry in BC.

Hamel, Richard



Richard is active, very hands-on owner and as an award-winning Jockey with over 1,500 wins, his dedication to the horseracing industry is unquestionable.

Johnson, Gary – incumbent



I have been a proud thoroughbred owner for more than 25 years. In that time I have seen many changes. Most have been forced upon us by the never-ending changes in this world. We must look at the world around us and plan and work on changes with a goal of rebuilding our industry here in BC. We must introduce and encourage new owners. We need to have goals and work on those goals. Day to day decision making is not in our interests as horse people.

To get us past COVID 19 and with the recent government grant we need more fresh ideas and I hope to not only introduce those ideas but to rebuild the HBPA so that its members (you) are

seen, heard and play an active role in the future. It is owners who pay the bills. It is owners who buy the horses. It is owners who take the risk of participating in this wonderful sport. It is trainers who take our horses and make them winners.

There are several issues that need addressing on a go forward basis.

1. Greater communication on a regular basis with trainers and owners using new technologies.
2. Offering trainers and owners an opportunity to work with breeders to purchase more BC bred thoroughbreds.
3. Keeping and growing the number of race-days we need to be able to continue this wonderful business of horse racing here in BC.
4. Working with the track operator to make Hastings Park a welcoming and exciting location for family outings on race-days for current and future patrons as well as for owners and trainers.

I retired early from my former life. I had spent many years representing thousands of people across the province and was key in introducing, negotiating and implementing the change from government run pension plans to plans which are now managed very successfully by workers and employers as joint trusts. I negotiated on behalf of various organizations with government and various agencies for more than 20 years.

In the last two terms as a Director-Owner I have been responsible for liaising with government including seeking government support for this industry, CTHS, and Harness Racing BC. I have been a Director of Teletheatre BC which HBPA owns 25% of. It has been our only source of income through the pandemic.

I want to help with the future. Together we can make the decisions necessary to enjoy a better thoroughbred racing future.

Pegg, Geoffrey



Geoff has been an active owner at Hastings for many years and is a dedicated supporter of the industry. Geoff brings many years of Board experience through several organizations, including being the current Chair of the Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services Citizens Advisory Committee. Geoff is committed to ensuring the growth and longevity of the Thoroughbred industry through

public advocacy, education, and enhanced communication for the benefit of members, employees, and backstretch personnel.

Prail, Denise



Hastings is in my DNA. I am the third generation of my family to be active at the racetrack (and both of my daughters have worked at Hastings too.) I have walked hots and groomed for Hall of Fame trainer Don Morison, worked at the fish & chip concession stand, and owned horses through the Blue Flame Stable and other syndicates. I have held an owner's licence for more than 20 years and since 2016, I have been a Board member with New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society. I have also been a paid BC Racebook social media influencer (follow me @deniseprail) for the past two years, sharing and promoting local and Canadian horse racing news. Recently at auction, I rescued more than 25 vintage Hastings trophies - some dating back to 1987- to preserve our racing history.

In my day job, I am the Chief Development Officer for Canuck Place Children's Hospice, responsible for fundraising more than \$17M in revenue annually. During my eight-year tenure at Canuck Place, I have increased total revenues by 81% and secured annual and end-of-year grant funding from the Province of BC.

I am a values-based leader with passion and talent for forming and engaging strong teams and building effective relationships with donors, government officials, community partners and organizations. I have deep experience developing government relations, corporate partnerships, soliciting gifts and negotiating sponsorship agreements. I believe in cultivating relationships through careful listening, open communication, and transparency. I hope to bring my professional background, skills, and connections forward to rejuvenate and improve our local racing venue and industry for all partners.

We have a terrific live sport that should be viewed a gem in this city. By adopting methods that work for other professional sports (such as corporate sponsorship agreements, media partnerships, offering unique fan experiences, etc.), we can create events that cater to casual visitors and families that generate increased revenue.

I favour strong incentive programs that reward current owners for keeping horses local and believe we can create exclusive offerings that cultivate the next generation of owners too.

I believe we need every person connected to Hastings aligned towards the goal of a sustainable racing industry in BC and I commit to strong conversations and a united effort in working towards this future.

Reid, Nigel



Born and raised in European horse racing, Nigel has worked in the international racing and bloodstock industry in a variety of roles during the past 30 years, including bloodstock consultancy, racing management, bloodstock media, marketing and PR.

Nigel said: "I'm running for election to the board because the sport faces an uncertain future and I feel it's vital to be a part of the conversation that decides what our sport looks like in the coming years.

"In addition to trying to help increase the profile of the sport within the Province, I'd like to focus on improving communication between the various racing bodies in a bid to ensure trainers, owners and breeders are all on the same page and pulling in the same direction."

The Election Period will begin August 11, 2021, until September 10, 2021. The ballot will allow for 5 owner representatives and 5 trainer representatives to be selected.

Please contact Neil Stajkowski, Secretary-Treasurer HBPA-BC hbpaneils@gmail.com. and 604.831.8408 with any questions.