

**THE HORSEMEN'S BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
MINUTES OF THE MEMBERS FORUM
HELD IN THE GEORGE ROYAL ROOM, HASTINGS RACECOURSE,
VANCOUVER, BC on April 30, 2022**

HBPA of BC President David Milburn, serving as the Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM and invited all to help themselves to the refreshments provided.

Items 1 and 2

- a) Officers of the Association
David Milburn---President
Steve Henson---Vice-President
Gary Johnson---Vice-President
Neil Stajkowski---Secretary-Treasurer
- b) Directors of the Association
- | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------------|
| Denise Prail | Don Danard | Nigel Reid |
| Richard Hamel | Mel Snow | Patty Leaney |
| Tara Neigel | | |

After calling the meeting to order the President Milburn asked for a minute of silence to honour the recent passing of Glen Todd of the Horse Racing Industry Management Committee and tremendously good friend to racing in general and to many people in the room today.

He also added to the moment the most recent passing of Dave Bennington, President of the CTHS, BC branch. A man who from the breeder side of racing was a staunch advocate for his members and racing in general. Many an owner and trainer have horses in their barns that Dave had a hand in in one way or another.

Item 3

David then provided information for the group on the handling on the dispersal sale of horses in Glen's barn. He said some have already been sold (three to the HRC Pat Jarvis getting Racino, John Snow getting Prince Cairo and Keith Pederson getting Hollywood Mistress) and while some will be sold locally others may be sold online.

He added that it was Glen's will that his horses be sold. David expects Glen's daughter to continue the breeding operation in Kentucky.

The issue of purchase incentives was raised with a handout of the 2 and 3 yr old purchase incentives which may be applied to the purchase of a yearling. Ole said that there are 7 yearlings available from Glen's inventory that qualify.

David also said that Ole has been asked to take Glen's spot on the Committee for the time being, through the 2022 meet. His focus will be on the financial side with the HBPA providing input for his use on anything related to horses and their racing details.

Item 4

Dave then mentioned the GPEB changes that can be expected soon. The first is online licensing applications, as it will no longer be required to attend at the office for the application, however, the office will still process walk in applicants.

He added that the HBPA BC has participated and provided input to the government's plan to amend a few regulations related to licensing of horse racing participants and increase in fines. While no date for the triggering of the new regulations is known, it isn't expected until 2023. A significant change is that a 3-year license will now cost \$150 rather than the \$30 now charged. The government says it spends \$100 doing background checks and needs to recoup this money at a minimum.

Item 5

Matthew provided a further update of non-casino revenue sources since the March 2020 shut down.

He added that other than TBC being the main source of revenue, TBC has been negotiating with GCGC to take over the management of the sports books at both Hastings and Fraser Downs. He said that will provide more control for TBC of the sites will GCGC continues to supply operations personnel. He said that while there is some risk to this move, he and the TBC board feel that it was important to do this move as GCGC was considering closing the sites and that would cause a revenue reduction for racing. He expects revenues to be grown in these two sites with a racing focused management team. TBC is adding a new marketing person to work with both site management teams to expand their support and knowledge.

Matthew confirmed that YoY income has increased at TBC and for the 2022 fiscal year end (March 31) over \$10 million has been earned for the industry.

Matthew also said that TBC is marketing direct to the horse racing community with more information getting into the newspapers and using social media. Their new name from Teletheatre BC (TBC) is now BC Racebook (www.bcracebook.co.)

Item 6

Dave introduced the HEI general manager Ryan McCarthy to the group.

Ryan said while he is new to horse racing, he has been with GCGC for over 18 years including some time at Hastings. His general plan is to take things a bit slowly to ensure any change is done well rather than try to do too much and fail.

He has spent time on the backstretch and acknowledged the walk around arranged by the HBPA in February where he heard and learned from the folks who have been working the back for some time. On practical matters he commented as follows:

- Paddock speakers will be location adjusted to focus to the crowd to minimize unusual sounds in the paddock that may spook the horses
- Paddock is receiving a paint refresh
- Painting of the grandstand is happening with some completed by opening day. Indigenous artists will be adding painting to the west entrance.
- Grandstand vinyl in the boxes will be changed out to add more colour
- Peter Galvas is handling the box seat sales and catering. A simplified but updated menu that is focused on consistency throughout the site will be unveiled in steps as staffing becomes available and trained. He did put out a plea for serving the kitchen staff if anyone would like to suggest someone to apply.
- He said the Cup (formerly Deighton Cup) is scheduled and is expected to be bigger than previous years.
- For the track itself he said that he is working to improve his knowledge but will continue to rely on Nichelle for support in her role of Director of Racing. He also said that the new racing secretary – Scott Henson – has jumped into the role and is getting on top of the work he needs to get done.

He welcomed members to approach him with questions as he continues to learn the ins and outs of horse racing and he expects to see them on the back stretch as much as he can with so many projects in the work, especially early in the season.

Item 7

The HBPA BC Directors Denise Prail and Nigel Reid were introduced as they spoke about some changes to communications. With the ending of Glen's newsletter, they are putting a plan together to improve direct communication to all members and the public. Specifically, HEI has purchased a text system where the race office can direct send messages to all trainers who are registered. This has been in use in other places successfully. Barb Heads headed up this initiative.

Dave and Neil then discussed some general changes to improve the spread of work among the Directors. Five new committees replace the long list of previous committees that had one person attached to them. The Committees are Track Conditions, Race Office, Finance which includes Benevolence and Feed Store, Communications and Strategies. Each Director is on a committee with some on more than one. They were asked to choose their area of interest in November when committees were sorted out.

There will be increased information either through the website or via direct communication as the year progresses.

David also said that the Learning Centre was moving to the old casino space currently not in use in the grandstand as the space in the Trackers building is no longer useable.

The issue of Lasix and the US Horse protection act that is being pushed down south was discussed. David said that no change is expected in Canada and all jurisdictions are maintaining the status quo with regards to the use of Lasix at all ages (some have cut out

Lasix in 2 yr olds) and whip rules. He did add that Lasix has increased by \$2 an application. In the past there was a \$2 spread between cost an invoicing horse accounts but for 2022 there will be no spread being applied.

Item 8

David updated the group on the addition of the 3 new horses purchased from the GT stable by David and Ole for the club with them being sent to 3 barns, Keith's, John Snow and Cindy Krasner in addition to the one that Charlene Miller has.

The club is shooting for 300 members and hope the performance of the horses will be positive for the club's finances and club members alike.

Item 9

President Milburn the conducted a "Members' Forum" during which those in attendance were provided the opportunity to express their views and concerns. He added that the concerns would be forwarded to the various committees for whatever action was possible and for future feedback. The following matters were raised and discussed by the group:

- Racetrack surface and the application of a binding agent
- The need of a new water truck with the problems that the existing one has
- Feed prices and delivery concerns
- Washers and dryers
- The problems with the cook shack
- Watering the track during the break during training times
- Soil sampling of the track
- The issue of protecting horses when claims are being made on behalf of others
- Creating merchandise for sale
- Improved advertising signage

The group discussed many of these issues with some being debated although so firm decisions were made.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

President and meeting Chair: David Milburn

Secretary-Treasurer: Neil Stajkowski