

**THE HORSEMEN'S BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD in via Zoom at 7:00 pm online on November 21, 2024**

The online meeting was moderated by Neil Stajkowski and Denise Praill. Denise monitored and responded to the chat line by providing questions to the appropriate person. Attendees were instructed to 'raise their hands' to be able to ask questions.

More information was provided to members via the PowerPoint slides that was agenda for the meeting.

HBPA BC President David Milburn, serving as the Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

Items 1

- a) Current Officers of the Association  
David Milburn---President  
Steve Henson---Vice-President  
Gary Johnson---Vice-President (absent with reason)  
Neil Stajkowski---Secretary-Treasurer
- b) Current Directors of the Association  

Denise Praill	Don Danard (absent with reason)	Nigel Reid
Richard Hamel	Mel Snow	Patty Leaney
Tara Neigel (absent with reason)		
- c) Newly elected President and Directors: David Milburn as President. David then thanked the outgoing Directors (Patty, Richard, Don and Tara) and welcomed in the new Board members – Representing Owners – Gary Johnson, Nigel Reid, Denise Praill, Jordan Froelich and Chris Ceraldi and representing Trainers – Steve Henson, Mel Snow, John Snow, Mark Freeman and Barbara Heads.  
  
The positions of VP will be determined by the newly elected persons at their next meeting.
- d) More than a quorum (25 required) of HBPA members were present.

After calling the meeting to order the President Milburn advised that proper Notice had been placed in the as required by the HBPA constitution and bylaws and observed that since there were more than enough members present for a quorum (25), the meeting was properly constituted.

The Chair then asked for a minute of silence related to the recent passing of Dairen Edwards – principal of Willow Creek Farms and then also acknowledged the passing of Darlene Smith, owner and significant friend to Hastings and the backstretch personal.

Item 2

Neil then presented the minutes of the previous AGM and asked if there were any errors or omissions. With none reported, he moved the motion presented:

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held in April 2024, as circulated and circulated.**

**The motion was moved and seconded (Craig MacPherson/Nigel Reid) and carried with no objections.**

Item 3

Neil then continued to speak to the March 31, 2024, Annual Financials for those in attendance. Steve Henson, Chair of the Finance Committee and Mel Snow, Director responsible for feed store matters were on hand to answer any questions.

Neil reported on the status of the benevolent and dental programs as well as the scholarship and status of the Learning Centre. He said that the Learning Centre is ran inside the grandstand and its location away from the backstretch has impacted attendance.

A call for questions resulted in some related to the lack of backstretch food services and if the HBPA would be getting more involved. Neil reported on the status of any discussions with GCE and doubted any food services would be added. He did say that the HBPA BC will likely continue to host free events for backstretch personnel in 2025 such as Breakfast on the Backstretch and the Tuck Shop that operates near Steve's barn.

The Feedstore was discussed and how horse population is impacting its results. The storage issue was touched upon as were the other matters on the presentation.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the annual financials as presented and one was made and seconded, and without dissent the following was passed:

**MOTION: To approve the 2023-2024 Annual Financial Statements as presented.**

**The motion was moved and seconded (Nigel Reid/Craig MacPherson) and approved.**

Following a call by the Chair for discussion of the appointment of the reviewer for the next year, the following motion was made, seconded, and passed without dissent:

**MOTION: To appoint Paul Beauchamp of Hedden Chong to conduct the review of the HBPA financials for the next fiscal year running from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.**

**The motion was moved and seconded (Craig MacPherson/Gary Johnson) and approved without dissent.**

#### Item 4 – Industry Financial Position

Neil outlined the financial position of the industry as presented on the slides.

He discussed how funds come to the thoroughbred industry via the negotiated split of the HRIMC.

He used the 2023 calendar year to illustrate the exact amount of funds and how the monies moved to the industry partners – the operator of both Hastings and Fraser Downs, the standardbreds and the thoroughbreds.

#### Item 5 – Presidents Report

He discussed the areas outlined on the presentation.

On the 2024 meet – he repeated the reason for the reduction in race days.

He discussed funding of the incentive programs and how HBPA BC is supporting continuing these incentives in 2025, but funding is an issue.

He thanked Nigel and Denise in communications for improving member interaction. Nigel with the newsletter and Denise with government relations participation and with the trackside events that focused on owners and helping backstretch.

He said that government funding is important to get back to the level it can be as funding sources have reduced significantly in gross dollars and even more as a portion of BC budgeted funds since 2010 when the current plan was put in place. He sees this being addressed soon into the next mandate of the newly elected government.

Horse population and setting properly conditioned races with limited funds will be a challenge in 2025 but he feels a meet similar to 2024 can be had, if not bigger if new resources are provided.

#### Item 6 TBC Discussion Areas

President Milburn then introduced Gary Johnson, HBPA BC appointee and chair of TBC.

Gary outlined operations at TBC and expectations of money out, promotions and the interaction TBC has with the track operator.

There were questions related to promotions and Gary provided comments and answers on the limitation of budget and legal matters when it comes to fixed site advertising in Vancouver.

He outlined more social media work and better presentation ideas being brought to our simulcast product including new lighting at Hastings and full Digital feed and painted start gate.

Item 7 President Summary and Wind Up

President Milburn then summarized the key On Going Matters and Issues slide presented to the meeting.

Additional questions and clarifications were made.

David thanked all attendees for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.