

**Ontario Eventing Association Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Ann Neal, Pat Frewen-Lord, Caroline Abrahams, Veronica Low, Kathleen Wilson, Charlotte Hodgson, Andrew McDermott, Roseanne Corbett, Peta Christen, Kendal Lehari, Alexis Minz, Kelley Gravelle, Terri Hough-Gilmour, Mark Nelson

**1. Call to Order:** 7:05 p.m.

**2. Meeting Opening**

Ann Neal welcomed members and asked for a motion to review and approve today's agenda and the minutes of the February 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting.

*A. McDermott moved and R. Corbett seconded and carried approval of agenda.*

*C. Hodgson motioned and A. McDermott seconded and carried motion to accept minutes from February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

**a. Matters Arising**

**i. Resignation of L. Mahon**

Regretfully Lindsay has resigned from the Board due to competing priorities. However, Laura McGuire, a current committee member, has expressed interest in becoming a Board member and her biography was circulated in advance of this meeting.

*Char Hodgson motioned and Roseanne seconded and carried the approval of Laura McGuire as an OEA Board member to replace Lindsay Mahon to the remainder of Lindsay's term.*

**ii. Review of Actions from last Board meeting**

It was agreed that any action items outstanding from the last meeting would be addressed in short order. Roseanne and Kathleen agreed to develop suitable wording to communicate about the pause on Champs for 2020.

**3. Matters for Discussion**

**a. Presidents Report**

Ann Neal reported that there were no specific items under the President's report and that most of it would be dealt with as part of the Budget discussion.

*(1) Safety Initiatives*

Pat reported that EC is working on some type of statement or initiative – but nothing has come out yet. Pat has priced a few frangible devices in the U.K. and they are quite

expensive at about \$500 per kit per obstacle. It was advised that the OEA defer any statements/initiatives until the EC Eventing Committee had their meeting this Thursday. Discussion also ensued about the EC designated \$15 levy on all entries to be used for safety devices. Unfortunately, this does not translate into much money per event. It was discussed whether OEA needs to add a safety levy – but other’s wondered if the answer is yet another levy on members and event participants. There was further discussion on the skill set required for the conversions, the interest of our organizers and the number of jumps in Ontario that would require conversion. It was agreed that we would wait for Pat to have her EC meeting, and that we likely needed to convene our organizers. Kathleen identified that once we have a clear idea of our direction, we need a communications plan on OEA’s approach to safety.

*(2) David O’Connor Clinic*

Ann reported that she and Pat had a conference call with Fleur to get more clarification. The format of the clinic will be a Friday coaches only session (no auditors). Classroom instruction will take place in the morning with demo riders in the afternoon. Day 2 will be dressage day and Day 3 will be stadium and cross. A tent has been booked for the Friday in-class session and every morning will start with an in-class session. We are working with other provinces to make sure we are in the same ballpark with respect to price ranges.

*(3) Organizers Meeting and Schooling Days*

An organizers meeting took place by Zoom on Monday February 17<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that all of the organizers were very positive and particularly liked the flexibility of the Zoom session.

**b. Treasurers Report**

R. Corbett noted that a few minor tweaks had been made to Draft 3 of the OEA Budget for 2019-20 but that the Board does need to vote on it. It was understood that the David O’Connor Clinic budget would be a separate budget and would be voted on at another time.

*V. Low motioned and P. Christen seconded, and carried, approval of the OEA 2019-20 Budget (Draft 3).*

The financial statements were also circulated and it was noted that memberships seem to be up compared to this time last year, although Roseanne pointed out that it might not be net new, but rather members signing up earlier.

**c. Committee Reports**

**i. Governance and Strategic Planning**

NB. Pat had signed off by this point in the meeting as she was participating from the U.K. Kelly is continuing to review the OEA By-Laws and Policies and has started to review the Membership services agreement with the OE.

Roseanne reported that there is nothing new on the banquet although we need to source a photographer.

**ii. Communications**

Communications for OEA is very active. They have been setting up the closing date emails so they can be prepped in advance. They are still doing winter training tips on YouTube. Kathleen noted that she is collecting a lot of content while she is in Florida and is also waiting on the finalization of the Adult Amateur program.

**iii. Growing the Sport**

Laura is continuing to work on the OEA pamphlet and Caroline is investigating access to the membership database via OE.

**iv. YRU25**

Veronica noted that we've recruited two new participants from Pony Clubs. It was also noted that Paramount Saddlery has come on as a sponsor. Kathleen arranged a bowling night with the YR/U25s that are in Florida and that she is trying to create more a community for the working students in Florida.

**v. Coaching**

K. Lehari reported she is continuing to work on promoting the First Aid and DOC clinic to coaches and those who aspire to be coaches.

**vi. Adult Amateurs**

It was noted that work is still underway to create clarifications around new AA program (absorbing Novice Adults) re: eligibility, awards etc. Kathleen wondered if we need to change Adult Amateurs to 21 and older and whether this makes it confusing for the U25 group. Generally, this group are not high-performance competitors. Discussion ensued around whether this new group makes it confusing for leaderboards (e.g. do we have leaderboards for the regular divisions, YR/U25 and AAs?) But it was also recognized that we need to recognize this group of riders and they may feel disenfranchised if we continue to post more about YR/U25s.

Action

The AA Committee (Terri, Laura, Kathleen, Roseanne and Kendal) need to meet to sort out details.

**vii. Competitions**

Nothing new on competitions. Char noted that she is now working with Wits End to help them with their Kindergartens and Competitions. She also declared this as a potential conflict.

**viii. Volunteer Incentive Program**

No report

**ix. Officials, Rules and Safety**

Peta noted that they pushed out another blog. To date she has received two applications for officials' bursaries and she knows of a third who is currently out of the country at a FEI event.

**x. Finance**

No report in light of earlier discussion on memberships.

**xi. Funding**

No new items. Ann wondered if this committee needs a new member to learn about our funding programs.

**xii. Sponsorship**

V. Low reported that there is much interest in what we are doing and that she has received all of the gift certificates from Devoucoux and some organizers are confirming as to whether they can participate as they are sponsored by another saddle company.

**d. Other issues**

Ann noted that she could use help with reviewing copy. Andrew agreed to assist and it was noted that Kate Farrell has also agreed to help out.

**4. Next Meeting:** April 14, 2020 in person

**5. Meeting Adjournment:** 8:47 p.m. moved by Roseanne and seconded by Veronica.