

**Ontario Eventing Association Board of Directors Meeting**  
**May 10<sup>th</sup> 2021**  
**Final Minutes**

**Present:** Ann Neal, Justin Ridgewell, Kendal Lehari, Terri Hough-Gilmour, Veronica Low, Cheryl Denault, Caroline Abrahams, Char Hodgson, Sarah Richardson, Laura McGuire, Kelly Gravelle, Nikki Maclellan, Doug Topalovic, Selena O’Hanlon, Laura McGuire

**Call to Order:** 7:04 p.m.

**1. Meeting Opening**

*Veronica moved and it was carried to approve the agenda.*

*Cheryl moved and it was carried to approve the April 14<sup>th</sup> minutes.*

**2. Welcome to new Board members**

Ann introduced and welcomed our three new Board members, Nikki Maclellan, Selena O’Hanlon and Doug Topalovic.

**3. Presentation on Compete Easy**

Helen Richardson from Compete Easy provided a presentation to the Board on this online platform for managing event registrations, including schooling days and clinics, which also facilitates scoring, payment and uploading of forms such as waivers.

**4. Matters for Discussion**

**a. EC and Discussions with Provincial Horse Trials Associations (PHTAs)**

Ann noted EC is engaged in a realignment process of its organization which may have implications for PHTAs. She reminded members that PHTA’s exist in Canada as we are specifically named in the EC rules as having responsibility for approving competition dates. The PHTAs have drafted a letter to the EC outlining what PHTA’s have done for the sport over the last 50 years and requesting official recognition via a legal MOU or contract.

**b. Discussions with Ontario Equestrian (OE)**

In recent discussions with OE, we have embarked on updating our Operating/Strategic Plan to clarify our role and mandate with our members and other partner organizations and to offer full transparency of our intended activities and partnerships. Kendal is taking the lead on developing this plan with several other Board members.

**5. Treasurers Report**

Cheryl noted that there are no major changes to our financials. Membership fees are overstated as OE remitted fees for a single month twice, although they have agreed to count it as a prepayment. We are still forecasting a loss for the 2021 season but have sufficient bank balance to cover it. She also noted that all registrants for the spring Jessica Phoenix Clinic had been refunded. We are also in discussions with CIBC about an OEA credit card, based on our motion approved last month.

Discussion also ensued around the reaction to Compete Easy. Board members agreed to try it out with a few initial clinics, and Veronica will circulate most recent version of waivers to use.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **a. Governance & Policy**

As noted earlier, Kendal has drafted a strategic plan which she will circulate. Char and Caroline are updating the last draft of our Social Media Policy and will bring to the next meeting.

### **b. Sport Development**

#### *Young Rider/U25:*

Veronica reported that a Team Challenge outfit has been put together. They are now partnering with the Adult Riders group for clinics, however we recognize that the provincial government is going to make an announcement on the extension of the lock-down so that will have an effect on scheduling.

She noted that the YRU25 group want to do an auction to raise money for their Team outfits but she emphasized that she needs all donated items in hand before they are auctioned off. She will circulate the information deck they provided to this group.

#### *Adult Riders:*

Terri mentioned that we should do profiles of Ontario riders from years gone by who have won international competitions, including eventers who've won in Eventing and other disciplines such as show jumping. It was agreed that Terri and Char would pursue this idea as a communications activity.

#### *Coaching:*

It was noted that Helen Richardson did an excellent online presentation explaining the difference between national certification and licensing. It appears as if all coaches will have to become licensed by 2022 regardless of whether they are certified. Mandatory licensing was supposed to take effect this year prior to COVID. This session is now on our YouTube channel.

#### *Schooling Daye:*

Sarah is still on track for four schooling days this season. Wits End may have to postpone their June 12<sup>th</sup> date, but there are two tentative dates for the Eastern region at the end of June and one at the end of July for cross country. Cross country schooling at Caledon on May 24 (a non OEA event) was officially cancelled.

### **c. Communications**

Char noted that she could use assistance from other Board members. Nikki noted that she could help and Doug has agreed to assist with the website. Char will call a meeting shortly to distribute the workload.

It was raised that there was confusion around the communications of cancelled events – some in Instagram stories, some as a post etc. Char responded that some notifications were posted as stories to get the information out as soon as possible. The board was also reminded that Organizers have no obligation to let OEA know of their cancellations. It is confusing for our members as they are not fully aware of the OEA's responsibilities with regard to sanctioned events.

It was suggested that we pull out our infographic which depicts respective responsibilities of all stakeholders with regard to running events in Ontario, particularly during COVID.

### **d. Competitions**

#### *Organizers:*

Another meeting of organizers is planned for this month. They seem to enjoy the short informal meetings to stay up to date. They also had a short meeting on the role and responsibility of TDs. The main issue was whether OEA should continue to assign TDs or let organizers hire them. TDs were open to either option. Cheryl noted that if organizers hire their own TDs they should use Level 1s where possible so they can get the experience they need to move up.

#### *Safety and Frangible Devices:*

Frangible devices have been ordered and we will be notified when they arrive. We need to convene a group to come up with a plan for distribution and cost sharing. A group of board members including Cheryl, Nikki and Justin agreed to be part of a committee to develop this.

#### *Officials*

EC was contacted about running an Officials course in Ontario. EC has confirmed that they plan to have an online course up and running by the end of May/beginning of June. It was generally agreed that OEA should try and promote this as much as possible to encourage people to pursue certification. It was agreed that we could do interviews and identify a list of potential people to outreach to for interest. It was also suggested that we could seek some sponsorship to support individuals to get certified as it is an expensive outlay for one individual. A number of Board members agreed to participate in this working group/committee.

## **7. Other Matters**

### **a. Banquet**

Ann raised that we need to make some decisions as to what to do for this year's banquet – in person or virtual, as well as trophies versus certificates for awards

### **b. Omnibus Co-Ordinator**

The current co-ordinator is no longer part of the Board but is willing to stay on for this activity. The Board will need to make a decision on this.

## **8. Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on June 14, 2021