

5/21/24 Board Meeting
7 Pm

OPENING BUSINESS:

- Call to order:
 - Meeting called to order at 7:04 by Phillip Williamson
 - Board members Phillip Williamson, Anne Lesko, Ashley Holsinger, Annie Shawver, Jamison Strasser, Holly Morris Flory, Robin Wood, Britni Cash, and Sarah Vagnoni in attendance via Zoom

ANNUAL SHOW BUSINESS:

- Phillip Williamson has shared an Excel Doc with the board regarding Annual Show planning and all topics to cover
- This board meeting will cover all annual show plans that require board review and discussion

Schedule

- First round of the classics will go on the first day and then the second round will go concurrently with their trips on the second day, similar to the rated show
- Special hunters will move to the main ring, board approves
 - Open 2 '6 hunter has been added on Thursday in the main ring so that horses that were not green/tb's that need to prepare for the specials. Probably best on Friday, but there will not be time in the schedule Friday
- All rated hunter divisions currently get 2 classes each day they show, but rated jumpers do not. Phillip proposed an add back or a stake class so that the jumpers will have another class to show in.
 - Ch/Ad jumpers are the only ones with a designated stakes/classic
 - Board agrees with this and proposes that we keep all jumpers consistent by making the Ch/ad jumper an add back as well rather than the \$250 classic

Hunt Night/Annual Derby discussion

- Phillip proposes making a Hunt and Go with height options to open entries up and allow more participation
- Ashley Holsinger proposes to *replace* the invitational derby with two open hunt and go derbies with different heights at 3' and 2'6 with high options (3' with 3'5 high, 2'6 with a 2'9 option)
 - Board discusses that while some members may oppose having them open, we had very light entries last year and the goal this year is to expand participation

- **Board all in agreement with this decision, and the annual committee will move forward with this schedule adjustment**
- Handy
 - Ashley proposes making the Handy non-pro
 - Ashley proposes more height options for the horses (2', 2'6) and keeping it separate from ponies
 - The board approves and the committee will move forward with this schedule/prizelist change

Dee Dee Starting Thursday:

- Ashley proposes having the lower height ring showing Thursday and Friday, like the larger height divisions go. She recommends making it similar to a Rated show, and having the divisions have 2 classes both days and an undersaddle. The board discusses:
 - The lower height options have been the larger attended divisions, so it would make sense for the ring to mirror the larger divisions
 - Annie Shawver notes that the membership could push back at losing the all day schooling
 - Britni notes that for her clients, the annual show is a big deal and they make time to have show ring time, and the clients would likely appreciate being about to show over multiple days
 - Anne Lesko notes that there has been membership frustration over not being able to pay by the class and the day, and this might be something we'd face with opening the ring
 - Ashley recommends making these open divisions pay by the class, Holly Morris Flory agrees and proposes that we make the rated divisions a division fee, and the unrated divisions available by the class.
 - Holly Morris Flory recommends keeping jumper classes pay-by-class, rated *Hunter* divisions a full division fee
 - Taking all of this discussion into account, the annual committee is going to review the budget and how much extra expense this will cause and how much participation there needs to be to pay for it. After the annual committee reviews the budget, the Board will discuss and make a decision.
 - In this discussion, the Board agrees that rather than just 3 jump classes, **all** divisions on Thursday/Friday should have 4 jump classes instead of 3. The weekend divisions will remain 3 classes because they have the classic options, which the Thursday/Friday divisions do not

Equitation/Evening Schedule Discussion:

- Phillip proposes:
 - Equitation warmup on Friday in the coliseum 12-4pm

- Saturday: Hollins medal followed by Sweet Briar Medal not before 2pm, and then leadline, presentation of Forbes Trophy, and then the Hunt Seat Medal followed by the Adult Medal
- Sunday: Pony medal in the Dee Dee with a breakfast in the Gazebo
- Ashley recommends that on Friday, so as not to waste money, we should run the open warm ups, **all** flat championships, and then the Trainer Medal and Oakridge
 - Holly Morris Flory notes that we need to make sure that the jumper warmup should have height denotations on the schedule since they will need multiple height options
- Phillip notes that we need to be conscious of the Dee Dee hunt night events which do not start before 3pm, so we need to give ourselves at least an hour before that begins to get finished in the coliseum
- The board reviews the schedule together and discusses various options for the evening schedules that have both advantages and disadvantages. After discussion, the board agrees to have the Coliseum Friday start at 8am with clear round blues and equitation warm ups at different heights, with a “not before 12” time for the Oak Ridge Gymnastics and Flat phase. It is possible that this will conflict with the “not before 12” time for the Wiley Pleasure flats, but the board feels that this is acceptable, so long as the Oakridge does not conflict with the Dee Dee Handy/hunt night events.
- Phillip proposes we make the adjustments that we’ve discussed and think on it before making it official
 - As of this meeting, the only thing we haven’t secured on the schedule is the Trainer’s Equitation- not sure where to put it and want it to be its own event. Some board members feel as though we should scrap it for this year and plan it for 2025 after we see how this schedule goes.i

Pleasure Flat modifications:

- Britni proposes a Stakes class that takes the top 2 or 5 from each pleasure flat section to take place after all the pleasure flats
 - Ashley agrees, but proposes that instead we do a 4th class similar to House Mountain to allow more entries
- Phillip proposes that the board reviews the schedule with all new items added, and we can think on it and decide if we should have it and where

Staffing

- The current staffing budget and amounts does not include any budgeting limitations at the moment. It is budget as usual- so board needs to discuss who can fill in to maybe alleviate some costs

Course Design:

- Annual Committee is currently planning to source course designers from the Board- specifically looking at Ashley Holsinger, Gordon Reistrup, Phillip Williamson
- In the past, membership has been concerned with trainers/competitors designing the course and then getting to show it
- Phillip proposes asking the judges to design the medal finals course rather than the assigned course designer
 - The Board agrees

Board Volunteer Jobs

- Anne Lesko volunteers to be stable manager
- Board members will be on grounds to be available
- Looking to fill addition positions with board members:
 - Awards? Jump crew? Hospitality?

Jump Crew:

- Lead guy and then he hires from there, currently budgeted around 10,000\$ but can change
- Hopefully will have SWVHJA junior volunteers and Phillip mentions some Lynchburg students
- Crissy Elliott in a Sponsorship Committee Meeting has mentioned volunteering some VMI Cadets

Sponsorship/Hospitality

- Sponsorship Committee has been working on a sponsorship letter, almost ready to send to the membership
- Food hospitality that needs sponsored that is typical:
 - Hunt Night
 - Medal Finals Night
 - Pony Medal Finals Brunch
 - Daily Hospitality
- Board considers having something Thursday for the derby's which we don't currently have on the schedule
- Board discusses a "Daily Coffee/Drinks/Snack" golf cart, Ashley Holsinger will try to secure cart and volunteer will need sponsorship for snacks/food

Awards

- Historically we have spent on awards. Should we compromise awards in effort to not have to spend?
- Annie Shawver feels that award budget is fine and we don't have to cut back

- In prize discussion, Annie Shawver recommends a variety of prizes that might appeal to people- similar to HITS
- Ashley mentions that her thoughts were cutting boards (etched) which would be equivalent to saddle racks in price, or quilted ribbon pillows (made by Casey Self) which might be cheaper
- Phillip mentions a blue ribbon prize table that might have smaller prizes to provide the “variety” aspect while still having a traditional champion prize

CLOSING:

- Board agrees to further discuss these points in the next meeting
 - Scheduling:
 - Trainer’s Equitation
 - Pleasure Flat Stakes option
 - Follow up on hospitality additions
 - Prize options
- Next meeting scheduled for 6/4/24 at 7 PM
- Robin Wood makes a motion to Adjourn at 9:30 PM, Ashley Holsinger second.