

OHJA Board of Director's Meeting
January 10, 2009

Attendance: Skip Thornbury, Anne Thornbury, Maureen Fagan, Kathy Valentine, Jamie Barkhau, Scott Dehelian, Matt Payne, Erica Staib, Frankie Stark, Jeremy Sims.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Skip Thornbury.

Topics of Discussion:

1. Intermediate Child/Adult Equitation Division. A Lochmoor Stables show secretary, Andrea Hannahan, contacted us about clarifying the eligibility rule for this division. She explained that they have a lot of problems with exhibitors also entering the 12-14 equitation over fences, which should be held at 3'. She asked that we consider opening the rule up so that intermediate child/adult riders could also show in their respective age group equitation class. This division was created to give those intermediate riders an equitation class to compete in at 2'6" and not have to compete against the possibly more advanced riders competing in the "age group" equitation. The board understands the potential for confusion if trainers and exhibitors do not read the rule but feel that since the two divisions are supposed to be held at different fence heights that the confusion at the in-gate should be minimal. At this time, the board agrees to leave the division description as it stands and will continue to discuss any changes if exhibitors really show an interest in changing it.
2. Limerick Lane Horse Show Prize List: The board was made aware of a problem with the Limerick Lane prize lists not being sent to all potential participants with a schedule for the second day (Sunday) schedule. Some members felt that this error created an unfair advantage to those who knew that the shows were two days, not one. There had been previous complaints about the number of classes held per equitation division as well, again possibly creating an unfair advantage to those who knew about the second day classes versus those that did not. The members that filed complaints were very direct in making their point about the apparent unfair advantage offered to what seemed to be a small group of riders. After several lengthy discussions and a lot of thought by all board members, the board felt that this omission in the prize list was not done deceitfully or maliciously but that an adjustment in the year end points to "even" the playing field would appease the frustrated but not painfully penalize the riders that had shown in good faith, not knowing of the omission error. The compromise was to delete the points accrued from any of the Sunday classes, re-figure any championship points affected, and re-do the year-end results. Rather than embarrass needlessly the original winners, the riders that moved up in the standings because of the point deletions were allowed to "tie" with the original winners so as not to publicly embarrass/penalize the riders affected by the point changes. This change will be posted with a brief explanation on the website.

3. Maximum numbers of classes for equitation and jumper divisions: We currently have limits set on the number of hunter classes that may be held during a one day and two or more day horse show. We do not have limits on the maximum number of equitation or jumper classes. The board recommends adding to the rule book for 2009 that a one day show may offer a maximum of two classes per eq. division (one flat, one over fences), and a two day show may offer three classes per eq. division (one flat, two over fences). No championship points are to be awarded for year end points. Walk/trot and crossrails equitation are excluded from this rule as that is generally the only division those riders can do. Jumper classes will have a limit of three classes offered for a one day show and four classes offered for a two day show.
4. Prize List Approval: Many of the above discussed problems could have been caught early on if managers would remember to send a complete prize list to the OHJA show secretary prior to the proposed show date. The prize list must contain a full schedule for all days published on the front of the prize list and a complete class/division description with fence heights. If any changes prior to a show are going to be made to the prize list, the OHJA show secretary should be informed in writing and a new prize list should be sent. We will see if webmaster, David Bridges, can provide a direct link from the OHJA show schedule to the horse show manager's website so members can go directly to that show's site for complete information.
5. Upcoming Banquet information: Jamie B. will be manning the in-gate. Jeremy is still working on the perpetual award replacements. Anne will be purchasing engraved picture frames as "keeper" trophies for the perpetual award winners to take home with them instead of taking the original trophies home with them. Set up will begin between 2:30-3:00 pm Saturday, Jan. 24.
6. A Quicken computer program was purchased to help Kathy provide us with a wider variety of information. It will hopefully make her life easier.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Thornbury