

## OHJA BOD Meeting

November 24, 2009

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Skip Thornbury.

1. Maureen said that DVD is in the works. Julie Martin has put together a lot of pictures that she took throughout the summer.
2. The OHJA Hunter Classic and the Medal Finals were a great success. Out of 67 riders qualified for the finals, 52 competed. It was the best turn-out ever. Next year we will order the same prizes for both classes. The medal finals winners did not receive sashes like the hunter classic winners did.
3. Frankie is still working on the questionnaire for the horse shows. She will e-mail it to all of us when she has completed it. Possibly we will be able to have a link from the horse show list to a list of amenities that each facility offers.
4. The New Hope Debate: The board has a problem with the fact that Chris judged the horse show put on by his own farm. That, coupled with the fact that the only exhibitors that competed (at least that received OHJA points) rode with Michael Howell of Far and Away Farm. On Far and Away's website it is clearly stated that Michael Howell works closely with Chris Payne and David Belford of New Hope Farm. Chris is pictured on that website as well. The other problem is that they held the show with apparently only 5 exhibitors which hardly classifies it as a competition.

The board received several complaints from OHJA members about the alleged inappropriateness of this competition. Most of the horses that did compete are in the top 5 of the year-end standings which makes it seem even more suspect in the eyes of the membership. A very lengthy discussion by the BOD ensued. All board members felt that the entire management team are seasoned horse show veterans

and they should have known that having Chris judge this competition was inappropriate. In the spirit of fairness, they should have found someone else to judge or canceled the competition. The way the situation was handled showed a great deal of disrespect to the OHJA, it's members, and it's rules. On this all BOD members agreed. What to do about it was hotly debated. The end result of the discussion was that the competition and the points earned there will be nullified. It is unfortunate for the exhibitors that probably acted in good faith as they paid for points they will not get. The board and the members felt that the competition did not give the membership the appearance of a level playing field. The show date will be put on probation, New Hope may elect to reserve the date and hold the show in 2010 but if any improprieties are noticed, the dates for New Hope will be returned to the OHJA. The above was voted on with the vote of 8 members voting for nullifying the points, 1 member was against nullifying the points, and 1 member abstained from the vote.

The BOD regrets having to punish the exhibitors by taking away the points but feels strongly that it was not a "fair" situation. The BOD felt it needed to send a strong message to all competition managers that the consequences of adjusting the rules to suit a particular situation will not be tolerated. The goal of the BOD is to ensure all exhibitors a fair, level playing field.

5. Trena Lenger called and questioned why the 12-14 equitation over fences has to be jumped at 3'. She noted that the other divisions are offered with a range of fence heights and would like to see the same for the 12-14 age group. It had been changed because the BOD felt that the intermediate children's eq. fulfilled that need. Erica thought that having a range would benefit exhibitors. The rest of the members saw no problem with this so for 2010 the 12-14 Eq. over fences can be offered at 2'6" or 3', show management's choice.

Erica also thought that looking into having the equitation age group fence heights coincide with the exhibitor's primary hunter/jumper showing height might be more appropriate for our area. The equitation fence heights could be set up similar to the jumper format of levels or something similar. This subject is an interesting topic and was tabled for further discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm by Skip Thornbury, seconded by Anne Thornbury.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Thornbury