

Kentucky Hunter Jumper Association Board Meeting

November 7, 2020

Lakeside Arena

A meeting of the Kentucky Hunter Jumper Association Board of Directors was called to order on November 7, 2020, by Joyce Brinsfield at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the board present included Leea Bridgeman, Bruce Brown, Diana Conlon, Missy Jo Hollingsworth, Trena Kerr, Maria Kneipp, Keedle Konopka, Jennifer Kraemer, Julie Moses, Melissa Murphy, Elaine Schott, Sara Spry, David Warner, and Ashley Watts. Some of the attendants were present in-person, while others participated via teleconferencing software. In addition to board members, various KHJA members were present.

Given Sarah Coleman's absence, no minutes or treasurer's report were given, though minutes and detailed financial records were sent to board members prior to the meeting, so they were available for discussion.

The primary agenda item of the meeting was then broached. Joyce Brinsfield asked Trena Kerr to present the details of a proposal that was brought to her by Frankie Stark. The gist of the proposal, according to Kerr, involved allowing Stark to take over the September dates at the Kentucky Horse Park normally used by KHJA for The KHJA Fall Classic Horse Show. The KHJA Medal Finals are held at this show, as are multiple hunter derbies and a jumper classic. The dates of The KHJA Fall Classic have historically competed with a USEF-rated show held at Frankie Stark's Country Heir Farm in Fayetteville, Ohio. Stark proposed that instead of having a show at her farm, she would stage a USEF-rated show on these dates at the Kentucky Horse Park and offer KHJA a day—possibly two days, though likely not three—in which KHJA could hold its KHJA Medal Finals. Expenses would be kept to a minimum for riders showing on the local day(s). Stark would also work with KHJA officials to determine a fair share of proceeds from the local portion of the horse show.

Many points of opposition were raised, though the foremost involved the USEF mileage rule that would preclude a USEF-sanctioned show at the Kentucky Horse Park that weekend due to a show at Brownland Farm (139 miles from the Kentucky Horse Park, with the mileage rule preventing any show within 150 miles). This would interfere with Stark's plan, if the mileage rule were to remain in effect in future years.

USEF rules aside, other points of challenge brought up by attendants included the premise that The KHJA Fall Classic is meant as a give-back to members, especially those that show exclusively or nearly so on the local, unrated circuit; the confusion surrounding why Stark would want these show dates, considering she had just sold all of her own Kentucky Horse Park dates for a sizeable sum; the removal of this high-quality local show from the calendar in favor of a rated show that may intimidate local riders, the very KHJA members the association targets with this show; and the backstory surrounding the ownership of the dates, which were given to KHJA through the altruism of Robbie Murphy several years ago.

Those in favor of Stark's plan raised their own points: The KHJA Fall Classic was never meant to be a give-back for KHJA members, considering that the organization supports its members in several other ways, e.g., the annual awards banquet, grant and scholarship programs, clinic reimbursement opportunities; and The KHJA Fall Classic is nearly always a burden on the association's resources, rarely making money or breaking even, especially when sponsorships are not actively sought.

A final point about The KHJA Fall Classic was brought up doing this discussion, and that was the fact that J.P. Bordeleau, who has managed the show the last several years, will no longer manage it beginning in 2021. While Bordeleau has reached out to one or two potential replacements, no decision about the management has been made.

After much back-and-forth, the discussion about this proposal ended with the reiteration that a USEF-rated show would be in violation of the mileage rule.

A conversation ensued about the disposition of certain board members, as their term limits will expire at the end of the year. Joyce Brinsfield went over the nominations she had, and a few other people were nominated by board members. The final slate of board members on the ballot will include Bruce Brown, Diana Conlon, Melissa Murphy, Elaine Schott, Natassia Stallings, and David Warner from the Eastern Region; Moira Bertke and Missy Jo Hollingsworth from the Northern Region; Kim Gundry as an out-of-state director; Julie Moses for vice president; and Ashley Watts for president.

In other business, rule change proposals were gathered and discussed, with potential changes involving Pony Jumpers (remove from year-end awards, as there has been little to no participation in the past three years); and discussion surrounding Novice Jumpers and divisions which could be lumped with Novice Jumpers (generally opposed considering the point-keeping intricacies that would involve); adding Beginner Jumper (as this division seems to be popular now). These rule changes and any others submitted by members will be discussed at the annual meeting.

Further, the conversation turned to the annual banquet. Some ideas were discussed, but nothing definite decided.

A decision was made to have a virtual annual meeting, to be held on Saturday, December 5, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Bruce Brown made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Melissa Murphy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Llewellyn
Point Secretary