

Alberta Standardbred Horse Association Annual General Meeting April 8, 2017 – Century Downs Racetrack and Casino

Blair Corbeil called the meeting to order

Motioned by John Hind and seconded by Carl Archibald to approve the presented minutes from the 2016 AGM.
Motion carried.

1. Financial Report - John Hind

- Through a provided report, John stated ASHA is in decent shape; we still have money in cash and term deposits.
- Funds held in trust are nomination and stake payments which are later transferred to the purse account.
- Accounts receivables is up slightly due to horsemen who still owe stabling from last year.
- Also, in accounts receivables it shows Olds still owes for a loan to assist in getting the training centre operational.
- To stable at Century Downs, it was budgeted at \$100,000, which we have since managed to reduce.
- The operational assessment is about \$235,000; we receive income through a grant from HRA, membership fees and other minor revenue sources.
- There were no increases to salaries or benefits this year
- Promotional expenses are up slightly but it assists in driving up the handle.
- It is anticipated we will break even this year.

Motion made by John Hind and seconded by Don McDougall for the financial report to be accepted as read/distributed.

Motion carried.

2. President's Report – Blair Corbeil

- Blair recognized Century Downs for all the work they have done over the past year and anticipates much the same from the recently approved Century Mile.
- The ASHA Board as well as Fred were also recognized by Blair for the work conducted despite cut backs due to the new MOU.
- One of the most difficult decisions the Board had to make with those cut backs was to temporarily discontinue the owners' bonus to maintain stakes and overnights to much the same as last year.
- Do to the next cut on funds going into next year, there is more downward pressure on the purses.
- The industry is working with Northlands and Century Downs to keep the handle up and working on slot revenue, and once Century Mile opens it is anticipated the situation will correct itself with an increase in slot revenue.
- Blair reminded everyone to work on the future; to talk to former owners and trainers and maybe with the positive swing they might think about returning to the business.
- With HRA, Blair is excited about plans to grow the industry despite the MOU. Also, the HRA board is changing to have more committee members who are non-horse people than those who are which makes a challenge in gaining their understanding of the industry.

3. Breeders report HRA – Bill Andrew

- Due to the downturn in Alberta, the industry has been impacted.
- BIP money has been reduced by 25% which is about 25% of the revenue in Alberta. Slots, handle, and our percentage of the cut is being reduced every year and it was a very difficult decision to remove the Alberta bonus. The thought behind this decision is protect the stakes program to help the breeders and bring back the AB bonus as things get better
- Century Mile has full approval from Alberta gaming and construction shall commence shortly.
- Although the breed improvement has gone down a bit, through the breeders committee the Alberta program has been adjusted and is stronger than the rest of Canada, thanks to Connie and the rest of the committee for their tremendous efforts.

4. Breeders Report – Connie Kolthammer No report.

5. Owners Report – Diane Bertrand No report.

6. **Driver/Trainer Report – Kelly Hoerd**

- Thank you to Tim Lawson for the new surface to the track, and, despite another tough year ahead having a new venue so willing to work with and promote us make the future brighter. Paul and Century are working with us with some promotional ideas.
- Professionalism is key though with creating a better image. Language, whipping, conflicts all take away from the public's image of us, so watch your conduct. The public does not need to witness this as they are here for enjoyable entertainment experience when they come here.
- To Brandon Campbell, from the board and everyone here, congratulations for being our Canadian representative, we are all behind you and wish you the best, and we all know you will be every bit as good as yourself. Jody Jamieson said thank you, he did not have time to represent the country.

7. **Presentation from Tim Lawson regarding Century Mile.**

- Tim Lawson introduced himself as the co-ordinator for Century mile and the Thoroughbred race secretary. The specs and location of the track were outlined with anticipation of breaking ground by May 2017.

Questions:

Don McDougall – Will there be lights for night racing?

Tim – Yes, we are working on state of the art LED lights for night racing.

Fred Gillis – Have you addressed a driver's room, shower etc.?

Tim – It still needs to be addressed, still in the process of organizing the jockeys' room and drivers' room. We have been working with Blair over the past week in planning the barns, but we are working on it.

Kelly Hoerd – What will track surface be?

Tim – Not sure yet. We need to find a track surface that will work as a good base for Thoroughbreds as well. We will be touring pits in the next little while to see what kind of surface we can have and what the availability will be.

Jamie Gray – So there is a grandstand behind the glass like a normal grandstand?

Tim – Outdoor seating?

Jamie – Not outdoor – clubhouse; tiered seating to look outside.

Tim – Yes, that is the plan right now. We have not finalized the numbers yet, but we are planning on 1500 including outdoor seating; indoor we don't know, but it will be tiered seating in the dining area. We are scheduled to open the third quarter of 2018. We would like to be racing by late summer 2018. We have a lot of work ahead, but we are trying.

Kelly Hoerd – Is Century working with any liaison as far as horsemen are concerned, so that they have input of industry people to see what is needed to run a meet well?

Tim – We are happy to cooperate with horse people. Nothing had been addressed formally, but that is something we are more than willing to talk about and get input with. I am always around and would love to have input and answer questions.

Don McDougall – Did you use any other track etc. as a model?

Tim – Yes, quite a few. We have a limited area to work with to put in a mile track, but we did get many track inputs on using the space well and getting the most out of the land we must use. In terms of grading, we have used consultants that are race track guys and visited tracks in the USA to get ideas for their facilities. The track itself was pretty much our own initiative, but the REC building has come from the Pen National gang, to get an idea of what would work well.

Don McDougall – It would be just nice to know if we could compare it to others.

Kaitlin Haining – Will it be more accessible to minors?

Tim – Good question. We have been working with our consultants on making it more accessible to minors and make it efficient. We are going to make the entrances more accessible for all age access.

Thank you everyone, enjoy your evening, if you have any questions, please feel free to ask, I'm working in the race office in the backstretch, my door is always open, and I am always around.

Blair – We now turn it over to Fred for the election of officers and directors

Fred Gillis - We do have written letters from Connie Kolthammer who will stand if someone nominates her for breeder's chair. Rod Hennessy will stand if someone nominates him for a director or breeders committee. Brad Watt has also informed the board that he will let his name stand as open director.

ELECTIONS of Officers and Directors

Vice President – two-year term	<i>Donald McDougall - acclaimed</i>
Secretary/Treasurer– two-year term	<i>John Hind - acclaimed</i>
Breeders Chair– two-year term <i>Elected - Connie Kolthammer</i>	Nominated - Connie Kolthammer Nominated - Jean Francois Gagne
Director – two-year term <i>Elected - Rod Starkewski</i>	Nominated - Dave Kelly Nominated - Jean Francois Gagne Nominated - Ryan Grundy Nominated - Harold Haining Nominated - Rod Starkewski
Director – two-year term <i>Elected - Jean Francois Gagne</i>	Nominated - Dave Kelly Nominated - Jean Francois Gagne Nominated - Ryan Grundy Nominated - Harold Haining
Director – one-year term <i>Elected- Bill Andrew</i>	Nominated - Dave Kelly Nominated - Kelly Crump Nominated - Ryan Grundy Nominated - Tim Lake Nominated - Bill Andrew Nominated - Norm Kennedy Nominated - Harold Haining
Director – one-year term <i>Elected - Norm Kennedy</i>	Nominated - Norm Kennedy Nominated - Dave Kelly Nominated - Rod Hennessy Nominated - Kelly Crump Nominated - Harold Haining Nominated - Brandon Campbell Nominated - Tim Lake Nominated - Ryan Grundy
Breeders Committee – three-year term (3 needed) <i>Elected - Rod Hennessy, Amanda Barron, & Derek Stout</i>	Nominated - Rod Hennessy Nominated - Carl Archibald Nominated - Amanda Barron Nominated - Derek Stout
Breeders Committee – two-year term	<i>Acclaimed - Carl Archibald</i>

Elections have completed congratulations to all our new directors and thank you.

Motion made by John Hind and seconded by Karen Bannister to destroy the ballots.

Motion carried.

Are there any questions from the floor or new business?

Al Goertzen – After listening to the president and HRA representative Bill Andrew regarding the reductions of owners and the elimination of our owners’ bonus, there seems to be quite a concern on the board and backstretch as they are being reduce by substantial numbers. It’s time to re instate the owner’s bonus and perhaps we need to give it directly to the owners, perhaps before the yearling sale so they have some revenue before the sale to spend at the sale.

Fred Gillis– It did go directly to the owners.

Al – I’m saying let’s change it. Let’s give the owners one cheque.

Fred – That will be on the agenda for the next directors meeting and discussed.

Blair Corbeil – To give Al a little bit of info, the budget has been set for this year, but we can take it into advisement for next year’s budget, but next year is looking worse for the budget, than this year. The intent was not

to eliminate the owners bonus, but to suspend the program until we have funds to support it, but we will take it under advisement and discuss it at the next board meeting.

Kelly Crump – What is the board's long-term plans (for the future). What are the plans if they decide in ten years to d-couple, what are the plans?

Bill Andrew – As Blair talked about earlier, there is an industry group. We are talking about life after slots if that comes, so how do you do that? Some thoughts are better quality of signal, drive the sale of the signal, get a strong lobby to hold the slots if you can. I will make a promise for Blair that we will keep the membership informed as that group moves forward. We have board members, presidents, and vice presidents of associations included. We have a large group trying to figure out what about life after slots. The simple answer is drive the live handle and simulcast, sale of signal and get the bet up.

Kelly Crump – I think the industry needs a massive change and with the way everyone uses modern technology we must change to be more available for different technologies. People using their I-Pads, Phones, etc. We must market to that new crowd or it's dead.

Bill- Those are all things that are being actively talked about and we will make progress there. For instance, Century already has that you can bet on your phones and devices, but we need to get our sale of signal to penetrate. Our signal sales are crappy right now and Northfield Park is kind of in the middle of nowhere and they are betting half a million at night. We need high definition signal, get it out there and get it bet on.

Blair – That goes back to what I mentioned in my opening; we are forming best practices and we are looking for people outside of the board to find fresh ideas, so we have more chances to get this put together and move forward in a positive direction.

Bill – Just for Al's sake, on the owner's bonus program, being the chairman of the industry breeders. The TB have retained the owners bonus program, but it is very different than ours and only awards the top-quality horses. Our intention has always been to push the bonus to as many as we can. We need more ideas, and next year if Tim can get everything together as planned, we will have that track going and slot revenue, so at the latest 2019 we can get that started again

Al – What I'm concerned about is, that our association is being re-active and not pro active, and I'm concerned about the industry that we will not have anyone to bring this back to. For us to continue and entice owners we need consistency. We just can't have this happening and drop these kinds of things without letting everyone know.

Fred – That's why you elect a board to make decisions and right away when it was decided we let everyone know.

Orianna Scheck– If Century Mile is not finished when it's hoped to be, has anyone discussed with Northlands? Will they have any racing to hold us over until Century Mile is finished?

Blair - As of June 30th, 2018 racing will end at Northlands Park no matter what. Century has committed to have the track ready upon the scheduled finish in July, and then it takes 30 days to move slots, and the target is to open August 1st. So, we will be dead on slots until then. Worst case scenario, Century will have trailers on site to operate slots, so they have assured us that barring a huge unforeseeable issue, they will be starting. Century is committed to this and wants to make it happen. Northlands Park is out no matter what.

Orianna – There has been some concern or talk of the possibility, due to the stakes being moved forward that there will be a lack of horses for November and December at Northlands. Is there a chance that we won't have enough horses?

Fred – I think it's a real problem, and HRA has changed the rules. If you don't race and don't reschedule the day, you lose the money. It is on the agenda for the next board meeting

Orianna – Can we change the stake schedule?

Fred – No that's already done and cannot be changed.

Blair – We are scheduled to race for overnight purses. The money is there; hopefully the people will show up to race for it.

Fred – The opening Sunday that we lost we are looking at rescheduling it on Wednesday August 9th because Monday the 7th is the big stake day, so we may have horses to go overnights since they may not get in.

Carl Archibald – Is that not the golf tournament day?

Fred – No, that is Thursday

Motion made by John Hind to adjourn the meeting.

