

# Alberta Standardbred Horse Association

## Annual General Meeting

Century Downs Racetrack and Casino

April 20 – 2019, 6:30 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order by ASHA President, Bill Andrew at 6:34 pm
2. Quorum reached. Meeting can proceed.
3. **Motioned by** Carl Archibald and seconded by John Hind to approve the presented minutes from the 2018 AGM. **Motion carried.**

#### 4. Financial Report - John Hind

- Through the provided report, John explained details of the 2018 financials. Included was a review of purchases such as the shower trailer and of the Ohio horse sale.

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

#### 5. REPORTS a) President's Report – Bill Andrew

- Bill spoke about Century Mile Racetrack and Casino and simulcast, which are now open, and the beginning of live racing next weekend. Century Downs has applied for an expansion, for building, work on track and additional slots. The Track On 2 is racing in August and obtaining a Racino license. The horsemen were encouraged to race in Alberta with the opportunities provided by the three tracks to grow the industry. In September, Harness racing moves to the Mile in until about Christmas. More income is anticipated with good performance from the slots. A new condition sheet is under revision by Don McNeil, Owners Chair, with considerations for Alberta foaled which gets one extra win equalling extra money.
- The handle was up twenty percent which appear to be the result of the efforts of Don McDougall and Kelly Crump working on social media projects. The same opportunity may happen at the Track on 2 and the Mile to grow that crowd with a new fan base.
- MLA Joe Ceci has worked well for us on behalf of the horse industry. The MLAs in Chestermere and Airdrie are both pro horse racing. Also, Shirley McClellan remains very involved with government.
- Bill closed with thanking the members who attended and encouraged members to run for positions on the Board and Breeders Committee.

#### b) HRA Breeders' Report– John Hind HRA Representatives – John Hind/Blair Corbeil

John stated that he was assigned to the audit committee after his initial appointment to HRA in September. It was determined that their spending was out of control, despite appearing balanced. They were overspent by a million dollars; HRA is not allowed to be in a deficit situation. A budget was set to deliberately be nine hundred thousand dollars under budget to bring it back into balance, but there would be no extra money for anything (purses/breeders' bonus), even with more money coming from the new track slots than from Northlands. Hopefully, next year we will be able to add some money to purses. First quarter appears on budget.



**c) ASHA Breeders Chair Report – Connie Kolthammer - no report (absent)**

Bill reported on Connie's behalf that he became involved with the Breeders Committee due to issues; members were feeling unheard due to lack of communication. As president, Bill intended to rectify the situation by the fall. He reminded the attendees that the prime role of the breeders committee is to make recommendations on stakes money, BIP, bonus money or payments, and work with the staff of ASHA on the yearling sale that we have annually, as well as the conditions for the sale, entry fees, etc. The breeders chair is one of the positions open tonight, and it a very valuable part of this organization.

**d) ASHA Owners Chair Report – Don McNeil**

- Don reported that about a dozen owners gathered to discuss the conditions sheet, and adjustments were recommended, some easier than others. Condition sheets were studied from other tracks for comparison. There is going to be some transition, but if we want to get to the point that we can keep stock here, we will have to live through those transitions.
- The consistency of judging is also a concern and addressed with HRA as a personnel matter.
- Don also addressed the purse pool as it is more difficult for owner to operate, with hopes of positives changes with the addition of Century Mile.

**e) ASHA Driver/Trainers Report – Nathan Sobey**

Nathen raised concern that the thoroughbred jockeys were utilizing the (harness) showers; they have their own in the jockeys' rooms. Further discussion ensued on issues with usage of designated spaces for the drivers and jockeys of the track. Bill requested the drivers develop a plan to bring to the ASHA Board to address the issues formally.

**6. New Business and Question Period (Questions, Answers, Comments and Responses)**

**C. (Diane Bertrand) – I would like to discuss retention barns.**

**R.** Bill Andrew – We asked HRA and Century about retention for all races initially, and that was going to be cost prohibitive for every race of the year. No one was willing to pay for it so it would have had to come out of our purse account. But there will be a retention barn for any stake over \$50,000. That is what we have had before.

John Hind– there will not be a problem in Edmonton because of the number of stalls they have, it will not be a problem for them but here if we do it, we lose 60-70 stalls for horses. So, we had to decide, do we want horse supply or seal stalls off for retention. We came to the decision that we need horse supply, and we will have to figure out retention for big races.

**Q.** (Ricky Schneider) – Guys down south love to breed to Alberta stallions and love Alberta breds; they want to buy them race them keep them. A lot of people bred mares to Alberta Stallions that were going to come here and race them. **Why was there not time limit on this because now they cannot come up here and put their horses in the classes and get the same benefits as the foaled in Alberta horses?**

Shannon Crump – That is one guy: Mark Anderson.

Bill Andrew – They get the bonus of an AB Sired program.

Ricky Schneider– I remember when I was on the board and we fought tooth and nail for this to come in when we took the bonus away, so we used this to compensate for the bonus being lost. We brought the Alberta Sired condition back to compensate for that bonus going away. Now it makes it tough on the race office and hard on those people who bred to Alberta sires. To



promote people to bring mares in they will still get the bonus here. **Why not have Alberta Sired or foaled?**

**A.** Bill Andrew – We went away from Alberta Sired to Alberta foaled, because our mares were leaving. They were going west. In the west, they have a very closed program. Right now, the mare must be 100% BC owned, bred, and foaled out there, and besides that they had conditions on the condition sheet as well. In BC there is no BC Sired, it is all foaled.

Ricky Schneider – I find that okay for later, but people who bought the horse at the yearling sale are getting ripped. Instead of putting a timeline on it, you stopped it right there. After guys bred to your stallions and paid all the vet costs and the semen shipment. But you just stopped it.

Bill Andrew - I also understand that if you are bringing semen in from any other jurisdiction like Indiana, Pennsylvania etc. that is expensive too, but those jurisdictions do not allow extras for them either.

Ricky Schneider - How does this help your stallions?

Bill Andrew - We are trying to help the mares out.

Ricky Schneider – Everyone loves Alberta Sired horses. A lot of people throughout different jurisdictions want Alberta Sired horses, but now you are making things harder, after people are looking at more Alberta Sired horses, but now I wish you would stop closing off borders. Did you talk to BC about it?

Bill Andrew – We only changed the condition sheet, not the Alberta Sired Stakes. You can have an Alberta Sired horses anywhere that can race for any Alberta Stakes. Try to do that anywhere else.

**Q.** (Ricky Schneider) – Retention barn, with renovations here, **are there any plans of expanding the barn area to make room for retention?**

**A.** Bill Andrew - there has been talk about another barn, but one thing that happened was that the original area for this, was about 2.5 times what it is now, so they had to sell off a big chunk of land to the south, so it took room.

Ricky Schneider – In California, there is a retention barn that is only about 20 stalls and it is compact.

Bill Andrew – We will ask.

Kayla Chappell – Stake's schedule; change in dates due to The Track on 2 racing Saturdays and Sundays. Kayla announced the Marquis and Stardust changes:

The ABSS Marquis Elimination will be re-scheduled for Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> NOT Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>. The Final for the ABSS Marquis will be re-scheduled for Friday October 11<sup>th</sup> NOT Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>. The ABSS Stardust will be re-scheduled for Friday October 11<sup>th</sup> NOT Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>. These stakes races have been re-scheduled as we are not racing at Century Mile on Saturdays in October, we are racing at The Track on 2.

**C.** (Diane Bertrand) – As an owner, going to California, one of the best things that came out of that, every horse that was entered, got to race. Right now, there is a shortage of horses, but in the summertime, we must sit out. I do not care what I am racing for as long as I can get in every week and have a chance to pay my bills.

**R.** Bill Andrew – It will take some stability over this coming year, and I believe heading into next year things will get better and stabilize. If we have a good program and the economy picks up, then we can look at extra days and expanding the stakes program. All of this can help get horses raced. I hope this year will be better than last year. Nothing could be worse than when we were racing in Grande Prairie, but it is about working on improving, we hope to be able to ask for more days, more money.



Diane Bertrand– There's two months in the summer where there are too many horses, then we go to the fall and then the horses leave.

Fred Gillis – The only answer is to reduce the purses, and then go 15 races a day, but there is only so much money. We could go over 12 races over the two months in the summer, but that is a lot of money if you work it out.

John Hind – We are watching it; we need to get the million dollars in to HRA before we can add to the purse account.

Bill Andrew – You make a good point Diane. You must look at the horse population. If we are full right to the rafters, we must balance that with getting horses raced. All I can promise you is that we are working on it.

**Q. (Jamie Jungquist)– One of the biggest complaints we get from our fans, is that we have terrible starts. We are leaving 1/16<sup>th</sup> early. It looks bad, why not make it 1/16 more. Also, regarding WCB who pays me?**

**A. Colleen Haining – You get paid a commission from the purse pool.**

**Q. (Jamie Jungquist) – How much input did Rod and Nathan have on the condition sheet? They have big stables.**

**A. Don McNeil – They had input.**

**C. (Jamie Jungquist) – U.S. A., BC, California - there are no tracks very close. You cannot compare conditions with jurisdictions that have several tracks close enough to race at.**

**R. Don McNeil – We are in a unique situation. We are unique no question, but we must have opportunities for everyone, not just the guys that can classify their horses. But we cannot put two thirds of the horsemen out of business.**

Harold Haining – I have a filly that is up for sale now because I must put her over her head in the straight conditions.

Don McNeil – You do not have to enter in a claimer.

Harold Haining– I want to enter a claimer.

Kelly Crump – We must put a stop to the horses leaving.

**Q. (Chris Lancaster) – You want to copy BC with the Alberta foaled. So why can't we copy other conditions from BC too?**

**A. Bill Andrew – Good idea but run that through the breeders committee. Run it through the owners committee and breeders committee and we will get it to the board. I am not trying to delay it and make it take a long time. It will get to us quickly, but they need to talk about it first.**

**C. (Doug Chappell)– Good horses making decent money in the classes that they are in, horses making too much money will be out of the classes and then they will be sold out of province.**

**R. Bill Andrew - Let us see how things work. But I think as long as there has been racing there has been a dispute between horsemen, owners', trainers, and race secretary. There was a lot of work put into this and we need to try to use this.**

Doug Chappell – We are de-valuing horses, and they will be sold.

**Q. (Nathan Sobey) – Is the class in question NW 35,000? Yes.**

You are not about to take a horse that just won out of that class. You are not going to take him and put him in NW 4 to 6. You cannot sit there and get killed three weeks in a row. Now you are telling him he must go in for \$4000. You need a winners over 3001 and a winners under 3001.

**Q. (Jamie Jungquist) – Why do we have to have a winners over and a winners under in claiming races?**

**A. Bill Andrew – Both Don McNeil and Nathan Sobey are very approachable, we need you to take these concerns to these people and bring it up to Fred too and we will look at it.**

**C. (Amanda Barron) - Going back to Alberta foaled - I know you said about mares, but I do not understand how that benefits me as only a breeder.**



**R.** Bill Andrew - The person that buys your foals knows that they have extra allowances when they race them. The trainer will influence the owner and they have more incentive to purchase your Alberta foaled foal. And if you buy a mare that is in foal to an outside stallion then that foal is worth more.

**Q.** (Chris Lancaster) - **Open to outside stallions, do they get mares bonus?**

**A.** Bill Andrew – No, the breeder’s bonus is on babies that are Alberta Sired, and Alberta foaled, only on Alberta races, not outside of Alberta. Alberta Sired, Alberta foaled money earned in Alberta.

**Q/C.** (Rod Hennessy) – **Has anyone studied how many outside horses that are not foaled in Alberta have made in the stakes here?** If you bring a horse here that is foaled in Washington state, but he is eligible in the Alberta Sires Stakes, but what are the chances of him making money in the sire stakes, not much. But they are penalized in this province.

**Q.** (Al Goertzen) – John, you said a while ago that you had to not use the slot revenue from the Edmonton track because we must repay a million dollars that someone else made a mistake on, and they are not allowed to go into deficit. **Why are you worried about paying HRA’s debt and racing for purses that are so low they are the same as they were years ago?**

**A.** John Hind – Most of those comments have nothing to do with me so I will not address them. I cannot pass a budget that is overspent. It has been spent because they put more money in the purse account that they had, but they cannot run a deficit. But I am on the audit committee and we must balance. To do that we have held the line on purses and are hoping the Century Mile will produce enough revenue to get to zero deficit, by the end of the year. But it has nothing to do with me paying or keeping the money, but the audit committee must rectify the situation, all breeds are in the same boat, we cannot spend the money.

Al Goertzen - John you also have a problem because you are talking about HRA not working within the law, and we do not have an appeal board, but the law says we must have an appeal board.

John Hind - We do have an appeal board.

Al Goertzen - Why is it not functioning?

**Q.** (Jamie Gray) – **With the deficit of 900 k, will there be less testing over the year?**

**Q.** John Hind – That is a different budget.

Bill Andrew - There is no change year over year on the regulatory.

**Q.** (Bill Collins) - **Can we get a modification for the wash rack?**

**A.** Bill Andrew – Fred will investigate that.

**END OF THE Q & A**



## 7. & 8 Election of Officers and Directors, and Breeders Committee

Position and Elected	Nominated
<b>Vice President – Two-year Term</b> <i>Elected Don McDougall</i>	Don McDougall (acclaimed)
<b>Secretary/Treasurer – two-year term</b> <i>Elected – John Hind</i>	John Hind (acclaimed)
<b>Breeders Chair – two-year term</b> <i>Elected – Harold Haining</i>	Karen Bannister Harold Haining
<b>Director – one-year term</b> <i>Elected- Mike Hennessy</i>	Rod Hennessy Diane Bertrand Blair Corbeil Mike Hennessy Chris Lancaster
<b>Director – two-year term</b> <i>Elected –Rod Starkewski</i>	Blair Corbeil Diane Bertrand Dave Kelly Rod Hennessy Rod Starkewski
<b>Director – two-year term</b>	Diane Bertrand
<i>Elected – Dave Kelly</i>	Rod Hennessy
	Blair Corbeil
	Dave Kelly
<b>Breeders Committee – three-year term (three required)</b> <i>Elected – Diane Bertrand, Gordon Empey, Donna Wyse</i>	Evelyn Sabraw Karen Bannister Gordon Empey Donna Wyse
<b>Breeders Committee – two-year term</b> <i>Elected – Shelly Arsenaault</i>	Evelyn Sabraw Kayla Chappell Karen Bannister Shelly Arsenaault

With the elections completed, Fred thanked the outgoing members and directors, and welcomed the new directors and members on behalf of ASHA staff.

### **9. Installation of New Officers and Committee Members**

**10. Motioned** by John Hind and Gerry Hudon to destroy the ballots. **Motion carried.**

**11. Motion to adjourn** made by Tim Lake /Robertson Rules of order, second not required.

