

The meeting of the Iowa Harness Horseman's Association Board was called to order by President Royal Roland on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003 at the Heartland Inn in Marshalltown, IA at 1:20pm. All board members were present.

**Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Jim Coulter to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as presented. All Ayes.**

**Motion by Larry Jenson, seconded by Jeff Carey to accept the treasurer's report as presented. All Ayes.**

The discussion of judges for the 2003 season began with Dan Roland outlining the people who had contacted him after the press release was posted on the USTA web site. A number of candidates both local and out of state were included in the list. There were also varying levels of experience. Discussion covered the advantages of hiring a judge from out of state that didn't know any of the participants. Also discussed was the fact that each fair normally hires their own officials. Since fairs pay for the judges out of money we give them we could have some say in who they hire, but it was decided that we would prefer to not have to do that. In the end it was decided to send a list of preferred candidates to the fairs and to have to board members who supervise race meets try to help spread the work out among a number of candidates. It was also decided to have an associate judge at every meet and to use this position to help some of the less experienced candidates gain experience. Because this approach was decided on it probably eliminated most of the candidates that were not from Iowa or a bordering state. This would leave a pool of presiding judge candidates including Gordon Lavender, Garry Phillips, Herb Butler, Dave Seitz and Eli McNutt. Associate judges could include any of the above plus Todd Boender, Harold Moyer, Kurt Vos and Jim Cox. Dan Roland is going to contact the other candidates to see if they would want to be included on the contact list. The contact list will then be sent to each of the race meet supervisors.

The next item of discussion was questions by members on what the money saved by implementing the B class would be used for. Joel indicated members from his district thought that money should be added back to the A class races. The consensus of the board was that it was hard to predict how much money will be saved and that the race conditions had been decided. They are open to considering changes for next year after there is a better understanding on how the program will work.

Dan Roland gave an update on the Sires Stakes program. Stud owners had to send their 2003 breeding season registration payment by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. As of Sunday all but three stud owners had paid, accounting for 28 stallions. The last few could potentially still be in the mail. The payment by stud owners for the 2003 racing season (foals of 2001) is due March 1<sup>st</sup>. Nominations by the foal owners are due April 1<sup>st</sup>. After that we will have a better idea what the participation level for 2003 will be so purses can be set. This year there will be two races for two year olds only at What Cheer on August 30<sup>th</sup> and at Humboldt on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

The next topic was the election of officers for 2003. **Motion by Jim Coulter, seconded by Joel McDanel that we keep the same officers as last year. All Aye.**

Fair grants were discussed. Applications for the 2003 grants were included with payment of the 2002 grants. They are due back April 15<sup>th</sup> and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Committee assignments were made as follows...

Promotion - Joel McDanel (Chair), Mark Holtan, Scott Smith, Jim Reese

Hall Of Fame - Larry Jenson (Chair), Jim Coulter, Jeff Carey

Political - Dan Roland, Mark Holtan, Jeff Carey plus non-board members Rick Mishler (Chair), Ron Emerson and Dale Hein

By-Laws Review - Jim Reese (Chair), Mark Holtan, Dan Roland

The purchase of new gates was discussed. Authorization to purchase the gates was made at the last meeting, but the price was slightly higher. It was discussed that these may not be the cheapest gates we can find but that there are advantages to having them the same as the other brown gates. That way they can be loaded onto either trailer instead of each set having to go on a specific trailer. The new trailer for the gates has been ordered and will include a gooseneck hitch. Total cost will be approximately \$11,000, which was \$1,000 more than budgeted.

**Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Joel McDanel to purchase the gates to go with the trailer. Aye - Jim Reese, Joel McDanel, Dan Roland, Scott Smith, Larry Jenson, Mark Holtan. Nay - Jim Coulter.**

The final topic of the day was the institution of a drug testing policy for the 2003 race season. Nomination forms that have been mailed out include a statement that by signing the form you agree to abide by the drug testing policy of the IaHHA. It was the consensus of the board that the majority of the membership thinks we need some

sort of drug testing but that no one has a good idea how to make it an effective deterrent while remaining legal and cost effective.

Joel McDanel expressed the opinion that the majority of the drugging at the fairs was milkshaking, which would not be detected by drug tests. A number of directors were concerned about withholding the purse for bute and/or lasix overages. Options discussed including having a smaller fine for these overages or setting our threshold higher than the state uses so we would only catch more severe overages. A number of directors thought there had to be some testing to act as a deterrent, even if the majority of people weren't using illegal substances.

It was decided that the most cost effective way to do the testing was to draw blood only, then have the vet use some random method to only send a portion of the samples in for actual testing.

**Motion by Joel McDanel, seconded by Jim Coulter to do blood testing only without the quantitative test for Bute and Lasix or any penalty for Bute and Lasix.**

**Aye - Jim Reese, Jim Coulter, Joel McDanel, Mark Holtan, Larry Jenson.**

**Nay - Scott Smith, Jeff Carey, Dan Roland**

**Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Scott Smith to test at all \$6,000 A class races.**

**Aye - Scott Smith, Joel McDanel, Jim Coulter, Larry Jenson, Dan Roland, Jeff Carey**

**Nay - Mark Holtan, Jim Reese**

**Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Scott Smith, that when testing is included at a site that the B Class and Aged Iowa Registered races are included in the testing.**

**Aye - Scott Smith, Jim Coulter, Larry Jenson, Mark Holtan, Jeff Carey, Joel McDanel, Dan Roland**

**Nay - Jim Reese**

**Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Dan Roland, to sample the first place horse and one random finisher.**

**Aye: Dan Roland, Jim Coulter, Mark Holtan, Jeff Carey, Joel McDanel**

**Nay: Larry Jenson, Jim Reese, Scott Smith**

**Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Joel McDanel, that the penalty for a positive test is the forfeiture of the purse and publication on a list that is posted where entry fees are paid for the remainder of the summer.**

**All Aye.**

**Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Mark Holtan, that any purse winnings are forfeited on any horse that is picked for sampling and leaves the ground without having blood drawn, or if the trainer refuses to allow blood to be drawn.**

**All Aye.**

**Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Scott Smith, that the above drug testing proposals are tentative and will be approved prior to the April 15<sup>th</sup> stakes payment.**

**All Aye.**

**Motion by Joel McDanel, seconded by Larry Jenson to only draw blood on the winners and four random other pursewinners.**

**All Aye.**

**Motion by Jim Reese, seconded by Dan Roland that the four random samples will come from different classes (pace/trot, two year old/three year old).**

**All Ayes.**

A conference call was scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to review the drug testing policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.