

Maritime Barrel Racing Association

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2023

I. Call to order

Tracey Higgins called to order the Annual General Meeting for Maritime Barrel Racing at 12:10 pm on November 18, 2023, at the Best Western Glengarry, Truro, NS.

II. Roll call

Kaleigh Denton, 24 present at the start of the meeting, and 15 - 20 arrived as the meeting progressed.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Kaleigh Denton read through the June 24th, 2023, Extraordinary General Meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as read by Cindy Wamboldt and seconded by Tommy Fraser.

Treasurer's Report:

Tommy Fraser shared the treasurer's report.

Opening Balance: \$20703.50
Closing Balance: \$24483.20
Trust Account \$1482.00

Note: Approximately \$7000 has not been taken out for the banquet; also, this figure doesn't include the Windsor jackpot, approximately \$6000. We are sitting around \$10 000.

Approved by Adrienne Strowbridge
Seconded by Abe Higgins

IV.) Old business

a.) At the EGM, the motion was put forward that *“if there are over 100 HORSES entered in one show, not including smallfry, ponies, and junior horses then we move to a D system.”* However, we did not reach that number this summer and therefore did not need to use this system. There was no real discussion on this matter as it was discussed in length at the EGM.

b.) There was a dragging rule put into place at the EGM, to drag after every 5 horses that run in each class, with the exception of the ram rodeo. While this was voted and passed at the EGM, this was out of conduct in regards to what business was to be discussed at the EGM. However, board members met after the EGM and decided to implement it as a board.

V.) New business

a.) There was discussion around how we can break ties for the D divisions for year-end awards. Often, there are only a few who place in each D leaving ties very probable. The rules currently state to move beyond points and consider number of 1st places, 2nds, and 3rd, and so on. However, this has proved not to be enough to break a tie.

Marion MacDonald made a motion

“We move our D system to point it like we do for other classes. Each division will accumulate its own points based on the number of horses that fall under that division in that race.”

Seconded by Adrienne Strowbridge

Voted and passed

b.) We have great sponsors, and as we know they are hard to come by and deserve the best representation. This year we had a few members not show up to accept their ribbon / award, which was disrespectful to the sponsors. Last year, the board felt that members should be given a warning the first time, and the next time they miss their placing they must forfeit their earnings. The new board will monitor this situation and continue to encourage people to show up for their placings.

c.) We are currently using our website as our official way of notice, but many members do not check the website and rely on facebook as their means of communication. There was discussion around not having to post information, such as meeting information, on the website and moving to facebook as the official means of notice. This, however, is not permitted as then we would have to change our bylaws, as the bylaws state the appropriate means of notice, which does not include facebook. We will continue to use both, the website and facebook page to communicate important information.

d.) We are currently charging \$60.00 for a head fee, which covers both the administration fee and the stall fee. However, as our club continues to grow we are using straight stalls more and more. It might be beneficial to differentiate the cost of the admin fee and the stall fee, to allow the cost of stalls to differentiate. The cost of a box stall would be more than a straight stall.

Ashley made a motion

“That separate the administration fee and stall fee”

Seconded by Marion Marion MacDonald

Voted and passed

e.) We continue to see our club grow, which is great. However, sometimes newer members who are attending their first or only show are entering before members who have supported the club and showed all year. Therefore, the members who have supported our club for a longer period of time are without a stall. There was discussion around how to make that more “fair”, and perhaps entries could go out during evening hours.

f.) For year-end awards, SmallFry and Pony are only allocated to have an overall award and reserve overall award for the division. However, there are sponsors who provide awards for each class as well. There was concern that if there was no sponsor, the individual smallfry and pony classes would not have a year-end award.

Adrienne made a motion

“If we do not have a year-end sponsor for small fry and pony classes, MBRA will step up and purchase awards.”

Seconded by Julia Parker

Voted and passed

g.) Treasurer is becoming a more challenging position. There was a discussion about paying the treasurer; however, there could be more liability if it is a paid position. In order to make this position easier, members are encouraged to write a memo with what it is for. Moving forward, there will be specific instructions that members will need to follow in order to deem their entry complete.

h.) While our entries are reasonable, our payouts are considerably small. The cost to get to a show is close to \$400-\$600 to a show. We need to figure out how to better compensate our members. It was discussed to increase fees in order to have better payouts. It was also considered to create tiered sponsorship and also give credit to those who attain that sponsorship. The new board will look into this for the next season.

i.) Our barrel covers are beginning to look worn and they are difficult to put on. The new board will look at new covers.

j.) There have been a few times this year when the board had to approach members about lame horses. This was not received very well. There was discussion around hiring a steward, so the onus is not on the board, but most members are not in favour of paying a steward.

Ashley Crane made a motion “that when addressing a member about a lame horse, all available board members are present”

Seconded by Mary Lou Rankin-Denton

Voted and passed

Withdrawn.

k). Members voted in 2021 to have a jackpot in Cape Breton. However, there was discussion that our club might be outgrowing Cape Breton, and therefore this may not be feasible in the future. There was also discussion about management posting a sign referring to our members as morons, which most members felt was inappropriate. The sign was removed, however, management posted it again. There were also complaints about the president of the CBWR policing where members were allowed to be on the grounds. It is recognized that on the Saturday there are standardbreds in that particular area of concern, however, on Sunday there was no apparent reason for the aggressive policing of boundaries. Furthermore, there was a significant amount of micromanaging. It was also noted that prior to this year there were never any issues to this degree, and Cape Breton members advocated to look beyond what transpired this year. If we don't go to Cape Breton, it was discussed that we go to the next closest available location to help support our Cape Breton members. There was favourable support for this. There was further discussion about possible other locations for jackpots. The new board will look into Crapaud, Sussex, and Truro. Tracey was in contact with Truro; the manager is hoping to discuss fixing the pavilion (barn) with the board in the new year.

l.) There was a discussion about people not cleaning out stalls. Tracey has had to stay multiple times to ensure that the barn was left in the condition stated in our rental agreements.

Mary Lou Rankin-Denton made a motion

“If you do not clean out your stall at the end of the show, you will be fined \$75.00, this must be paid before you will be allowed to compete at the next event.”

Seconded by Abe Higgins

Voted and passed

m.) Tommy made a motion to donate \$250.00 to the toy drive for Scrap Co.

Seconded by Cherie Parker

Voted and passed

n.) There was a discussion about having mandatory vaccination. It was discussed that the vaccination does not guarantee your horse will not get sick, therefore it is difficult to impose a rule that does not guarantee what the purpose of said rule is. This would be a lot of work for the show secretary to police as the number of horses is continuously growing. It was encouraged that members are proactive and consider vaccination, however, it is not mandatory.

m.) Nominations for the new board of directors

1. Tracey Higgins (Declined)
2. Ashley Crane
3. Heather Strictland (Declined)
4. Elaine MacLean (Declined)
5. Alka Virik
6. Cherie Parker
7. Adrienne Strowbridge
8. Jessie Taylor
9. Laura Morrison
10. Kaleigh Denton
11. Cindy Wamboldt
12. Chantel Lynds
13. Tommy Fraser
14. Christine Doane
15. Courtney Parker
16. Jenelle Collier
17. Lindsay Smith
18. Chris MacLean
19. Terry Cole

The following people were voted to be the board of directors

1. Ashley Crane
2. Cherie Parker
3. Jessie Taylor
4. Laura Morrison
5. Kaleigh Denton
6. Tommy Fraser
7. Courtney Parker
8. Lindsay Smith
9. Chris MacLean
10. Terry Cole

VI.Adjournment

Tracey Higgins made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Tommy Fraser

Minutes submitted by Kaleigh Denton

Minutes approved by Jessie Taylor