

MBRA General Meeting Minutes 2025
November 1, 2025 12:00PM
Inn On Prince, Truro NS

1. Call to Order

Jessie Hood called the meeting to order at 12:10PM at this time there were 29 present and another 10 people showed up after this.

2. Roll Call

At the time of rollcall there were 29 present and another 10 people showed up after this.

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Ashley Crane read through the November 16, 2024 General Meeting Minutes
Cherie Parker Approved. Seconded by Abe Higgins

4. Reading of Lawyer Letter Regarding Financial Breach of the Club

Prior to the treasures report President Jessie Hood read a letter prepared by our legal team in regards to a financial breach the BOD has discovered.

5. Treasurer's Report

Heather Strickland read through the treasurer's report as well as the show reports.

Notes:

Marion asked about the \$3000.00 that was allotted last year for investing in a new entry system. Chris Maclean spoke to this and informed us that it was not used as the equi - go system had no startup cost, just the \$100.00 fee to the club each show.

Marsha Macleod questioned the discrepancy in opening balance vs. closing balance. Heather Strickland spoke to this briefly. As we do not have accurate reports from the previous years financial statements, we can only go based on the numbers that we know are accurate from 2025.

Chad Singleton suggested that following the true year-end, following the banquet, once all payouts and costs associated with our year end are settled, that we post another true financial statement to the club to reflect the financial standing going into the next season.

It was also recommended that once in new business we vote again on having a yearly audit.

Marion asked if the treasurer thought that doing payouts via cheque would be faster than e-transfer. That way we could wrap up payouts quicker.

Terry Cole Approved the treasurer's report
Chad Singleton Seconded

6.Old Business

a.) Truro is now an option for us to host events again. Discussion was had regarding the number of stalls as well as the fact we will need portable bathrooms and our own drag. Jessie to look into this venue further.

We Discussed Truro, Membership was happy to be back, we will be booking again for 2026.

Stalls did not seem to be an issue this year.

b.) Marion MacDonald brought up the issue of high entry fees at Exhibitions, in particular the Hants County Ex. Jessie is going to meet with the new manager to discuss this as well as some of the safety concerns we have with this venue. If we are paying such high fees we would like some of the safety concerns addressed. Ie. Better rubber matting in the chute, removal of nails from stalls, a proper gate installed that is an appropriate height.

Jessie Hood did meet with the new management. The feedback from the BOD of Hants County was that if we pay it every year why would they lower it. Point Blank! We did discuss moving another show to Truro to take one away from Hants, but ultimately it was decided that because Hants county can accommodate our numbers making it a money earner for the club, we will keep it there and just give more back to the membership.

c.) Tracey Higgins made a motion "Once your entry is sent in, if you want to add/change a class you may do so up until Friday evening at 7:00PM subject to a \$10.00 fee per class charge. After this time there will be no changes and no post entries accepted."

Danielle Fraser Seconded
Voted and Passed

d.) Marion MacDonald made a motion " Any entries received after the cut off date will be automatically placed at the bottom of the running order draw."

Tracey Higgins Seconded
Voted and Passed

e.) Tracey Higgins made a motion "If you cancel by the Wednesday before the show, you will be charged the admin fee from your entry. If you fail to cancel and are a no show, there will be no

refund to your entry. All cancellations/refunds will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.”
Julia Parker Seconded
Voted and Passed

Tracey Higgins spoke to this she said we did move late entries to bottom of running order and we kept admin fees with exception of vet notes for cancelations.

f.) The topic of using a second party/website system to collect entries and fees was discussed at length. It is felt that our club has grown to a point where we need a mainstreamed venue for collecting entries and memberships. Our current web creator has proposed a system that will allow us to have our memberships, show entries, banquet tickets and merchandise all through our website. At the time of the meeting we were still waiting on a quote for the cost of this upgrade to our website. There are also other options to look into as well such as Saddle Book etc. Chris Maclean was going to look into some of these options as well .
Chris MacLean made a motion “The club will move forward with an upgraded system to our website or external entry portal up to a cost not exceeding \$3000.00. At the discretion of the Board of Directors we will decide on a new system.”
Abe Higgins Seconded
Voted and Passed

Equi-Go was the system we went with. The feedback has been positive. There were a few hiccups along the way that as a BOD we have learned from in our inaugural year using the system. All in all it has made the entry system more effective.

g.) Courtney Parker made a motion “To remove the 3D system rule.”
Danielle Fraser Seconded
Voted and Passed

h.) Chris MacLean made a motion “To remove the true 5 drag rule.”
Tracey Higgins Seconded
Voted and Passed

i.) Alka Virick made a motion “To remove the Adult Green Division from our schedule.”
Christine Doane Seconded
Voted and Passed

j.) The topic of using a holding pen area at our shows was discussed. The holding pen would be for the next heat of five horses, the horses in that heat will be required to be in the holding pen. The holding pen would be in the arena if space allowed or could be in the chute area of some arena’s if necessary. The idea is widely used in other areas and cuts down on wasted time and holds the competitor responsible to be where they need to be on time.
Charlsea Fiske made a motion “To try a holding pen system at the first Windsor Jackpot.”

Christine Doane Seconded
Voted and Passed

We tried the holding pen system for both Windsor Jackpots. The feedback was for the most part positive. And it did allow for the show to move much more efficiently and quicker.

We will make some adjustments for the 2026 season to improve on this but plan to continue to implement a holding pen system at our shows.

Danielle Fraser suggested blocking off an area in Pictou by the end of the ring for a holding pen.

k.) Marion MacDonald followed this up with the following motion “No Handlers are to be permitted in the holding area unless assisting a horse. They are only permitted in the holding area once your horse is called in the hole. All handles must be in approved western footwear.”

Alka Virick Seconded
Voted and Passed

There were a few instances where it was felt there were more people than needing to be in the holding area, this will be monitored.

l.) Jessie Taylor made the motion “ Any horse deemed to be dangerous or out of control will be excused from the show at the discretion of the Board of Directors.”

Tracey Higgins Seconded
Voted and Passed

We did not have any situations this year where we had to remove a competitor or horse.

m.) Charlesea Fiske brought up the issue of lame horses and how we handle this at shows. It was recommended that if any person is issuing a formal complaint against a horse that you gather more than one Board member and that you make it known that you are issuing a formal complaint. It was also discussed that if a formal complaint is brought to the Board of Directors, the show may have to take a pause to address said complaint.

n.) Ashley Crane made a motion “The Board of Directors prior to the beginning of the show will issue an assigned volunteer list. As a competitor it is your responsibility to show up for your allotted time slot. If you can not make your allotted time slot you must trade off or find coverage. It is your responsibility to provide volunteer coverage for the allotted time. Failure to do so will result in not being able to enter any following shows.”

Marion MacDonald Seconded
Voted and Passed

The Volunteer list worked well. Most members respected it and showed up for their slot.

o.) Tracey Higgins made a motion “We pay tractor drivers as well as Ram Ring Crew at Events we are required to provide them.”

Alka Virick Seconded

Voted and Passed

We have been paying our tractor drivers, however this is still the most challenging aspect of our shows, to find drivers.

p.) Charlse Fiske made a motion “ We remove the Jr. Horse Division, replacing it with a Derby/Futurity System, following Canadian Barrel Horse Incentive Rules. Any added funding for this division will be secured through the Fortunes Programs and other incentives.

Dr. Kristen Pyke Seconded

Voted and Passed

At the time of the 2024 meeting we had passed the deadline to apply for the incentive money for the 2025 season. Western Fortunes Incentive money to be added to the Lawrencetown Jackpot for the 2026 season.

7.New Business

a.) Joan Grant brought up from an earlier discussion the amount of handlers in the chute and felt that we need to be cautious of handlers urging horses if they are assisting a rider in the chute/holding pen. It was discussed and felt that it does not seem to be that much of an issue and felt in some cases it is safer if the handler is there with the horse the entire time they are in the chute/holding pen.

Courtney Parker made the motion “To remove the portion of the handler motions that states that; ***They are only permitted in the holding area once the horse is called in the hole.***”

Matt Lynds Seconded

Voted and Passed

b.) Chris Philips asked if we could remove the last two panels in the chute when using the wing system. This brought up discussion regarding the wing system and proper etiquette of other riders in the wings. Joan Grant suggested a riders meeting at the first jackpot to demonstrate how to properly utilize the space for safety reasons. This will be looked into to make the system as safe as can be.

c.) Tracey Higgins brought up the cost of small fry prizing at jackpots and wondered if we should be adding a fee to small fry entries to help offset the cost.

There was a lot of discussion on this and ultimately decided that the small fry are the future so lets work harder at finding sponsors and promoting the kids.

This brought the discussion to sponsorship and having a letter readily available to members who may be able to secure sponsors. Also being made aware that with an invoice we can issue a receipt for tax purposes for companies who sponsor us.

Tracey Higgins made the following motion, "The BOD will look into sponsorship levels and have a sign up sheet/system in place in the new year for jackpot sponsorship so we know what sponsorship we have and what shows are covered".

Julia Parker Seconded
Voted and Passed

Mandy Singleton followed this up by recommending a fundraising committee within the club or a specific board member responsible for fundraising.

d.) Chris MacLean made the following motion " We up the \$1200.00 that the club puts up per jackpot to \$2400.00 for the 2026 season".

Courtney Seconded
Voted and Passed

e.) Chris MacLean made the following motion "In regards to Ram Payouts at exhibitions, we place and ribbon to 10th place but only divide the payout amongst the top 6th placings".

Marion Seconded
Voted and Defeated

f.)The discussion then went to percentages of placings at jackpots and it was felt that some classes ie. open poles could benefit from basing payouts on number in class not on amount of money.

Ashley Crane made the following motion "We payout based on 40% of entries in class, never exceeding 10 placings or a minimum of 3 placings for smaller classes".

Charlsea Fiske Seconded
Voted and Passed

g.) Charlsea Fiske made the following motion "Entries are able to roll their first run of the day into all eligible classes".

Marion MacDonald Seconded
Voted and Defeated

h.) Christine Doane then directed the discussion to our Ram Rodeo entries and how we ensure that we have the best representation at these events when some of the venues like to control the entry taking process.

It was discussed at length and felt that we as a BOD need to approach the management of the exhibitions in a favourable way to sway them to let us control the entry taking for Ram runs.

OHW is limiting entries, Antigonish is moving to points. BW takes open pointed horses first then goes to novice. Etc.

Tim Parker made the following motion "The 2026 BOD to approach the exhibition management regarding Ram Rodeo Entries to allow us to provide the list of entries".

Tracey Higgins Seconded

Voted and Passed

Tim Parker then made a motion to "The BOD will use open points to determine Ram Rodeo Entries. Setting aside two invite/wildcard entry positions to use if it is deemed that it will improve the show at the discretion of the BOD".

Marion MacDonald Seconded

Voted and Passed

i.) Terry Cole made the motion that " In the event of a tie for reserve place it is awarded based on the aggregate of time over the three runs."

Cindy Wamboldt Seconded

Voted and Passed

j.) Wanda Fraser made the following motion "Once a horse has entered the ring it has 3 minutes maximum to cross the timer".

Danielle Fraser Seconded

Voted and Defeated

k.) Matt Lynds requested that once the findings of the financial investigation are completed we hold an extraordinary general meeting to bring the results to the membership.

l.) Chris MacLean made the following motion " To modify the MBRA drag to add a ground leveler and water tank system up to a maximum cost of \$5000.00 to the club".

Terry Cole Seconded

Voted and Passed

Courtney then suggested that we add ASIM stickers to the drag as a show of support and thanks to the Lynds family for all they do to our drag in terms of maintenance and transportation.

Voted and Passed

m.) Nominations for the 2026 BOD

Heather Strickland - Declined

Abe Higgins -Declined

Tim Parker - Declined

Laura Morrison -Declined

Jessica Hood

Kaleigh Denton

Cherie Parker

Allie Fox

Courtney Parker

Tracey Higgins

Ashley Crane

Chris MacLean

Terry Cole

Chris Fraser

Matthew Lynds

Charlsea Fiske

2026 Board of Directors

Jessica Hood-President

Tracey Higgins - Vice President

Allie Fox - Treasurer

Kaleigh Denton - Secretary

Cherie Parker - Director

Courtney Parker - Director

Ashley Crane - Director

Chris MacLean - Director

Terry Cole - Director

Matthew Lynds - Director

n.) Jessie Hood made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Heather Strickland Seconded

Minutes Submitted by Ashley Crane

Minutes Approved by Jessica Hood

