

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE CALIFORNIA HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
October 29, 2016**

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Proceedings of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the California Harness Horsemen's Association (CHHA) held at the Hilton Hotel (Arden) Sacramento, California on October 29, 2016.

PRESENT:

David Neumeister  
David Siegel  
Bob Johnson  
Luke Plano  
Steve Wiseman  
Robin Clements  
Richard Thomas  
Billie Schwartz  
Wayne Knittel (phone)

As a result, all nine members of the board of directors were present. Also in attendance was Jimmy Perez, Executive Director of CHHA, Chris Schick and Ben Kenney Watch and Wager.

Mr. Neumeister, President, presided. Minutes from the previous meeting had already been approved via an email vote so there were no minutes to approve.

It was noted as a reminder that the three board incumbents, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Plano and Ms. Schwartz, need to notify Mr. Perez in writing prior to December 15, 2016 of any intent to run for a board seat. Mr. Perez committed to emailing the membership of the upcoming election and the requirements to run.

Mr. Perez and Mr. Siegel reported on several items regarding insurance including workers compensation, directors and officers liability and drive/trainer accident insurance. Due to actions take last meet, all are in good shape.

Discussion was had on one aspect of the existing incentive program. By consensus, it was determined regarding the provision regarding "starting" prior to November 13 that any horse that entered prior to this date to take advantage of the higher (early) incentive amount, would be granted this higher amount so long as the horse was eligible to the race entered, and that said race did not fill or was not used, so long as the horse started a race in the next available week as long as the race entered was used. This was the sole "exception" to the rule narrowly interpreted approved by the board.

Mr. Siegel and Mr. Schick led a discussion about "house rules". This represents an effort to lay out, in writing, a variety of rules and policies that have not been codified in

the recent past. Mr. Siegel and Mr. Schick will agree to a set of rules and have them reviewed for input by the stewards. Once completed, they will be posted on the CHHA site and the Cal-Expo web site for reference.

The remainder of the discussion concerned race office-related matters, primarily the condition sheet. The following items were communicated to Mr. Schick for his consideration:

1. Regarding the 1-class drop restriction as included in the Horsemen's Agreement. No exceptions will be made to this OTHER THAN for horses that entered a particular race on the condition sheet that was not used. It would be this class (the unused race) that would be used as the "race prior" with regard to class, rather than the race actually raced it, as it pertains to class drops. As in illustration, Mr. Ed earned \$1800 in his last 4 starts, and \$990 in his last 3 starts. Trainer Joe enters Mr. Ed in a NW\$2000L4 race as per the condition sheet. That race is not used, so Mr. Ed gets placed in a NW\$3000L4 race and finishes 8<sup>th</sup>. The following week, his last 4 earnings is now \$990, and fits a NW\$1000Lr race. While this would OTHERWISE be a 2-class drop, this exception would allow him to enter the NW\$1000L4 race.
2. Regarding the bottom (\$3000) claiming classes, the CHHA urged W&W to do its best to card these races without combining them with another class, and to allow smaller fields if need be to get momentum behind the race going with a long term goal of having at least two divisions (split by earnings as per the Horsemen's Agreement).
3. Regarding claimers in general, it was requested to include optional claimers as per the Horsemen's Agreement and to further consider the use of claiming reasons on their own (not tacked onto NW races) if there are enough horse to support it.

Claiming \$10,000 (May be combined with Open II)	\$5,000
Claiming \$8,000 (May be combined with Open III)	\$4,400
Claiming \$6,000	\$3,900
Claiming \$5,000	\$3,500
Claiming \$4,000	\$3,200
Claiming \$3,000	\$3,000

There being no further business to come before the CHHA board, the meeting was, upon motion, duly seconded and approved, adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*David Siegel*

Secretary of the meeting