



Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association, Inc. Agenda

March 16 – 2:00pm EST

Miriam Anver	Joe Davies	Wendy Kingsley	Leslie Young
Mark Beecher	Lucy Goelet	Jeff LeHew	Donnie Yovanovich
Fenneka Bentley	Ricky Hendriks	Alex Leventhal	Todd Wyatt
Sean Clancy	Marsha Hewitt	Sanna Neilson	
Gail Clark	Arch Kingsley	Hill Parker	

Unable to attend: Joe Davies, Sheila Fisher

- I. **Approve February Minutes** Kimberly Kapacziewski
 Minutes were approved as written.
 Kimberly explained that we will start time stamping the bottom of our meeting minutes to document what the board members working on and the minutes will be posted on our website.

- II. **Committee Reports**
 - Treasurers Report** Wendy Kingsley
 Checking: \$10,533.88
 Savings: \$14,596.81
 - Race Conditions Committee** Sean Clancy
 The finalized conditions book has been published.
 Camden added \$25,000 to their purse structure.
 - Membership Committee** Hill Parker
 Hill Parker has been emailing and mailing invites to become members. We currently have over 80 members and that is a big improvement for the organization. Hill asked the board to review our members and reach out to anyone that is not a member, please reach out to them and extend an invitation to become a member.

- III. **President's Report** Todd Wyatt
Letter to NSA requesting Easyfix rollout
 We have fielded several calls about the Easyfix fences. Kimberly and Todd wrote a letter to Al Griffin with the questions that we were hearing. After our letter was received, Al Griffin returned a letter to us answering questions and a

Zoom call was put on to discuss the rollout of the fence. Al Griffin has made the decision to start using the fence at the beginning of the year.

IV. **New Business**

NSA letter regarding Easyfix

Todd asked the board if anyone had any questions about the rollout of the fences. We have five weeks until the Queen's Cup when the fences will be used. Kimberly read Al Griffin's letter to the board.

Several questions were raised about the Easyfix fences:

Where are they running over these fences?

Why the rush to put the fences out?

Why wasn't this put out in January?

We have to be ready to have the horses run over the fences with a short time frame.

More transparency with the rollout would have been nice.

1st horses to run over the fences is the Maiden Claimers.

There are 42 sections in the USA right now. Jack Fisher and Doug Fout are paying for 10 more. They are roughly \$2,000 a section and each section is four feet. To set-up a full race course, around 49 sections are needed.

It is important that all of the trainers have access to the fences to school them before Queen's Cup.

Where are the fences available:

Shawan, Sanna Neilson's, Camden, Doug Fout's

Todd asked the group to try as hard as possible to jump the fences this week. We will possibly have a call Monday or Tuesday after everyone has done this.

SOTA needs to collect information about who has run over the fences.

Kimberly Kapacziewski will reach out to the trainers to gather this information.

Donnie Yovanovich explained that Colonial Downs has said that they are going to require the new fences on their race course. The rush is an effort to keep Colonial on the calendar.

V. **Old Business**

Vote to adopt updated bylaws

Kimberly Kapacziewski

Section 10 – Informal Action By Members was amended on the call.

Donnie Yovnovich made a motion to approve the updated bylaws.

Todd Wyatt seconded.

ALL WERE IN FAVOR – The new bylaws have been approved.

Kimberly thanked everyone that had a part in helping to get this completed.

2021 Jockey Situation

Is there a concrete number of professional jockeys that will be riding this spring? Leslie Young has been in contact with Forest Kelly. There are only 4 jockeys in the mix and some of these are only riding for one trainer.

It may be necessary to suggest that should we split the races with five horses each because there aren't enough jockeys.

Todd asked Sean to come up with some thoughts to send to the NSA.

Please reach out to Sean Clancy if you have ideas about how to proactive to coming up with solutions to this situation.

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Todd Wyatt informed everyone that NYRA has made a change and no horses 10yo or older will be able to compete at Saratoga – on the flat and in steeplechase races.

Dr. Cowles Presentation

Dr. Cowles asked the group to follow-up with him after his presentation with suggestions on how to make the sport more safe.

Arch Kingsley, Todd Wyatt, and Sean Clancy have followed-up.

Donnie Yovanovich explained that purpose of the safety presentation is to get insight from the horsemen about all horses and riders.

VI. Adjourn – Meeting Adjourned at 3:36pm