



Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association, Inc. Minutes

October 26, 2021 – 2:00pm EST

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

Not Available -
Ricky Hendriks
Wendy Kingsley

- I. **Approve September Minutes** Kimberly Kapacziewski
Minutes were not approved. Sean Clancy has a revision to submit after the meeting.

- II. **Committee Reports**
Treasurers Report Kimberly Kapacziewski
Checking - \$7,438.52
Savings - \$14,598.53

Race Conditions Committee Sean Clancy

A. Late Conditions Changes

Sean asked the group if we should request that the NSA include the SOTA Conditions Committee on changes as they come up.
Todd Wyatt agreed that this is a good idea.

B. Discussion

Keri Brion asked about the abundance of Maiden Claiming races coming up and if there are enough horses to fill those.

Donnie Yovanovich asked the group if they are missing the non-winners of two and three for a price - that might be an opportunity for the lesser horses? Does an inexpensive maiden ever win a ratings race?
Miriam Anver and Marsha Hewitt spoke up that the lower purses are fine with them because they are happy to win anything. Todd Wyatt agreed

that this is positive for the sport and he will bring up with Bill Gallo.

Alex Leventhal mentioned horses that are very good that are not coming down in the ratings fast enough therefore cannot be competitive.

III. **President's Report**

Todd Wyatt

A. Ratings Follow-Up

Conditions Committee, Arch Kingsley, and SOTA Executive Committee got on a call with Bill Gallo earlier in the month to talk about the Ratings in general.

What is the process to discuss a rating:

- Call Bill Gallo.
- He presents your request to have the rating reviewed to the Ratings Committee.
- The committee gets back in touch with Bill Gallo to let him know if the rating will be changed or not.

Todd Wyatt asked Bill Gallo if he would provide a short write-up on the decision so the trainer can have something to present to the owner. Bill Gallo agreed to start doing this.

Leslie Young spoke about buying horses in Europe and suggested that everyone check with the NSA about a rating prior to making a purchase.

IV. **New Business**

A. 2022 Board / Membership

Kimberly Kapacziewski

Rolling off: Arch Kingsley, Hill Parker, Ricky Hendriks, Gail Clark, Lucy Goelet

Todd asked the SOTA board to give feedback on a membership initiative that he spearheaded last year. In 2020, he asked the NSA to add SOTA membership to their O/T license. NSA said they would circle back to this at a later date.

NSA O/T License is \$350. We are suggesting that the SOTA membership of \$75 be added onto that. Todd asked the SOTA board if anyone opposed this.

Suggested: The default is that you pay the SOTA membership on top of the NSA License fee or you have the option to uncheck that membership and not pay to be a SOTA member.

Suggested: Make a formal request to the NSA to make a decision and give a deadline. Everyone who is a member of the NSA and SOTA needs to get a membership application at the beginning of the year.

Miriam Anver expressed that there are owners that still don't know what SOTA does.

Suggested: Hold a call for anyone that wants to call in and explain what SOTA has been working on – maybe every two months. It would give perspective on what's going on within the organization.

V. **Old Business**

A. Course Report

As SOTA Rep, Sanna Neilson has been approached about the course report and asked the group if we should we have a third party come in and do a course report.

Todd Wyatt has also been approached and asked to bring this up to the NSA.

Donnie Yovanovich explained that the course reports are submitted 8-9 days before the race meet and the ground changes in that time. Donnie suggested that the course report be put on the overnight on Wednesday's when it is closer to race day. He also explained that the compaction meters are not always used correctly. He suggested a mini lesson on how to use a compaction meter be available to everyone that is putting a course report together.

B. EasyFix Fence

Sean Clancy asked if anyone has any updates on the new fence. Donnie Yovanovich reported there is a new set of foam that is to arrive Friday (Oct 29) and going to Warrenton. The Safety Committee is planning to alter the jump with matting and foam. They are also looking at a different cover.

Keri Brion encouraged everyone to come and see the schooling fences that she has been using. She will send a video of horses jumping it to be distributed to the SOTA Board.

VI. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm