

**Board minutes:**

MHRI board meeting Mon. April 27th 2009 Owatonna Happy Chef, called to order 7:15 p.m.

Members present: Ron Banks, Greg Budach, Vern Devine, Brian Anfinson, Scott Banitt, Don Schimek, Dave Pagel, Ulf Holm-Johannsen, Jeff Ryan, Ted Nowatzki

Absent: Rod Pinske

Guests: Ron Lingle, Lee Benson, Rod Newhart- Running Aces director of racing

Brian Anfinson moved to approve the agenda, second by Don Schimek & carried.

Secretaries report by Greg Budach with Don Schimek moving to accept & second by Dave Pagel & carried.

Treasurer's report by Greg Budach Ted Nowatzki moved to accept & second by Scott Banitt & carried.

Rod Newhart addressed the group. He stated the track is now open for training 6 days per week, Monday through Saturday from 7 to 12 a.m. Qualifiers will be Thurs. the 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. & Wed. the 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. They will then adjust & schedule 2 qualifiers before the races on Tues. & Friday nights beginning at 6:15p.m.

It will be a 3 race paddock & there are 11 ship in stalls in the paddock. Qualifying times are 2:08 & 2:10 for trotters with a 1 second allowance for 3 year olds 2 seconds fro 2 year olds and a 45 day window for a clean line. Ron questioned the number of qualifying days, can we get enough horses qualified in only 2 days.

Rod stated there will be a 2 day box this year & he intends to use the ABC system again this year. He plans to mix up the classes a little more instead of having a filly & mare night or a trotter night.

He plans to write a \$2500 & \$3000 claimer. Also a NW 1 & NW 2 or straight maiden.

Vern mentioned his disappointment in the ABC system last year & that nationally we have gone away from that because it didn't work. Too much power for the race secretary.

Rod explained his philosophy about the ABC. A horse wins then moves up for 2 starts. If he's 2<sup>nd</sup> he moves up for 1.

His goal is to try & fill races & keep them competitive.

There are no late closers scheduled & purses will range from \$2100 to \$5600.

They are working to find a photographer but don't have one yet.

Conrad Rapp is working as the identifier but needs to take the test.

Tom Manning is working as the interim publicity director & will be replaced by Margaret Murphy.

Minnesota breders will be considered filled with 5 or more horses. We clarified with Rod how to handle splits. He will allocate the allotment per day then supplement from that to the splits based on class.

Rod mentioned they are looking at Barnum to handle the overflow of horses. There is a horsemen's meeting scheduled for 12:00 on Tues. the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Ron mentioned the banner for fairs being made available from the USTA at \$55 per set. He suggested we order 1 for each fair & have it shipped direct to each location. Ted moved to order these & Vern 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion & it passed.

We talked about clarifying the rules regarding foal registration & that we should be looking at a rule change with the racing commission.

We discussed having more categories of awards for Running Aces.

We decided to have a fair category & a Running Aces category.

Rod suggested awarding points at 45, 25, 15, 10, & 5 plus 1 point per start to eliminate ties.

The categories we decided to award are:

2 y.o. colt, 2y.o. filly- 3y.o. colt, 3y.o. filly- 2y.o. trotter, 3y.o. trotter- Aged colt, Aged mare, & Aged trotter.

Vern will collect the data from Running Aces.

Also awarded will be horse of the year. Vern moved to present awards as established which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ted & carried.

Rod said he could check into sulky insurance for us.

Greg updated the board on the Racino bill at the legislature. There is still a possibility that something will get done.

Next meeting set for Sat. May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009 at Running Aces 2:00 p.m.

Ted moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ulf Holm-Johannsen

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