

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Members of Standardbred Canada
GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 6:00pm**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gall thanked all attendees for registering and joining the All Members Meeting. Mr. Gall advised SC members of procedures for roll call and outlined tasks involved with making motions, voting and submitting questions.

Corporate Secretary conducted roll call and confirmed attendance and quorum to proceed with meeting.

The Chair of Standardbred Canada, Mr. Bill McLinchey, welcomed everyone and asked for a moment of silence out of respect for the many great women, men, and horses that the industry has lost this past year.

2. Notice of Meeting & Identification of Members

Mr. McLinchey advised that the Notice of Meeting was given in accordance with By-Law #1, Article 5. There was a quorum present of at least 25 members, and declared the meeting duly constituted for the transaction of business.

3. Introduction of Directors

Mr. McLinchey introduced the Standardbred Canada Directors currently serving the 2021-2022 term.

Western Region

Breeder Director - Heather Davies

Active Director - Blair Corbeil

Track Director - Paul Ryneveld

Ontario Region

Breeder Directors - Gerry Belore, Ann Straatman

Active Directors - Blair Burgess, Ryan Clements

Track Directors - Ian Fleming, Bill McLinchey

Quebec Region

Breeder Director - Guillaume Cayer-Richard

Active Director - Richard Veilleux

Track Director - To be appointed by Quebec Racetrack Management in the near future

Atlantic Region

Breeder Director - Bruce Wood

Active Director - Andrea Rennison

Track Director - Lee Drake

4. Introduction of Chairs and Officers

Mr. McLinchey introduced the 2022 Executive Committee and Officers of the Board:

Bill McLinchey, Chair of Board
Blair Corbeil, Vice-Chair
Guillaume Cayer-Richard, Breeders Committee Chair
Lee Drake - Director
Andrea Rennison - Director
Paul Ryneveld - Director
President and Chief Executive Officer - Dan Gall
Sr. Director of Finance and Administration - Pedja Kalas
Darlene Kidd-Bailey - Corporate Secretary

5. Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting of Members - February 17, 2021

MOVED by Mr. Blair Corbeil, **Seconded** by Ms. Carole Dunbar
To approve the minutes of February 17, 2021 as presented.
Motion CARRIED.

6. Approval of 2020/2021 Audited Financial Statements

Mr. Kalas presented the audited 2020/2021 financial statements.

Statement of Operations Highlights:

- Total revenues for the fiscal came in at \$4.9M.
- Expenses came in at \$4.8M relatively flat to last fiscal primarily a result of higher expenses.
- For year ended October 31, 2021, the Association reported a net income of \$42K vs. last fiscal of \$162K.

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

- Assets of the Association are at \$5.6M, with the cash position up by \$1.3M.

Liabilities

- Current liabilities sit at \$1.076M.
- Long term liabilities sit at \$364K.

Mr. Kalas concluded stating FY21 was a successful year for Standardbred Canada.

MOVED by Ms. Ann Straatman, **Seconded** by Mr. Bill O'Donnell
To approve the audited 2020/2021 financial statements as presented.
Motion CARRIED.

Mr. Kalas responded to a member's question stating the renovation loan isn't associated with the staking program.

7. Approval of Auditor for Fiscal 2021/2022

MOVED by Mr. Guillaume Cayer-Richard, **Seconded** by Mr. Joe Poirier
To re-appoint the firm of Grant Thornton as auditors for fiscal 2021/2022.
Motion CARRIED.

8. Report from Chair of the Board

Last year the Board navigated through some uncharted waters but remained steadfast to the overall governance of the association.

The Board is comprised of excellent individuals with expertise in breeding, ownership, industry knowledge and professionalism anchored by the Association's core values of Honesty, Openness, Respect, Service and Excellence.

In 2021, a significant amount of work was done by the Board including reviewing and revising Standardbred Canada's 5 Year Strategic Plan and assisting in the development of the F22 Strategic Plan.

Standing and Special committees work included:

- Reviewing current bylaws.
- The O'Brien Awards Committee reviewed and revised eligibility requirements including the renaming of the Driver of the Year category to the Keith Waples Driver of the Year.
- The Government Relations Committee established steps in developing an effective government relations strategy.
- The Audit Committee met quarterly with expert input from Directors at Large including Alberta's John Hind and Cam Fella/Hall of Fame recipient Bill Andrew and Ontario's Jeffrey Wellwood.
- The Breeders Committee had significant discussion regarding the microchip program and various other membership requests and issues.
- Governance took an active role in establishing a board assessment and overseeing governance issues of the Board and Association.

In keeping with the mission statement and vision statement, the Board directed management to focus on five long term objectives including Communications, Data Management, Financial Sustainability, Membership/Customer Service Value, and Stakeholder Relations.

The Chair congratulated the 2021 O'Brien Award winners and the Standardbred Canada team for producing a successful and entertaining Virtual O'Brien Awards.

9. Report from the President & CEO

Website:

SC had old technology running the website and many upgrades were needed for SC to remain competitive and offer members the latest technological advancements. The new technology will allow for multiple features and benefits including speed, streaming, and member security with the increase in online transactions.

Last year, SC provided quarterly strategic plan progress reports to the Board of the work that SC was doing including;

- Working with the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society on a funding application from the federal government to allow both organizations to build a proper infrastructure for a traceability and identification program for the horse racing sector.
- Microchipped every racehorse in Canada by January 1st 2022.
- Standardbred Canada presented to the Board a detailed plan and recommendations on an effective data governance strategy.
- The Association worked on centralizing the newly created Racing Services department to create more efficiencies for the racetracks and the Association.
- The Board approved the renovation of office space.
- Management has developed a succession plan and provided leadership development and education to employees.
- SC has been working on the opportunity to develop a system that would put purse cheques directly into member's bank accounts.
- Presented the Board with a business case on the future direction of charting races with a global positioning system.
- The Board approved the Association to conduct a national survey on the standardbred racing industry that focuses on the economic benefits that the sport brings to the government and our provinces.

In 2022, the Board approved the following strategic tactics to be completed by Standardbred Canada including:

- Continue work on Single Sign On for membership.
- Conduct an internal review of the Staking Process.
- Completion of the office renovation.
- Develop and release an Online Auction program.
- Continue Internal Process Reviews to become more efficient and effective.
- Direct Deposit Expansion.
- Look at ways to increase membership through innovation, awareness and introduce the sport to a younger demographic.
- Continued focus on creating a positive working environment.
- The development of a National Economic Report Card.
- Generate Ownership Opportunities by working with major horse associations and create opportunities to promote horse ownership.

The Association saw a slight increase mares bred by stallions standing year over year from 3128 to 3178 with increases in Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

SC saw a 1.2% increase in overall membership from December 2020 to December 2021 with increases coming from the Atlantic, Ontario and Quebec Regions.

10. Questions from the Floor

What are the rules for drawing horses?

If the question is regarding preference dates (the date the horse last raced), certain types of races are based on preference dates. Different provinces have different rules

for what is a preference date so members will need to refer to their specific jurisdiction. Horses that race the longest time ago take preference in the draw. For any horse that has the same preference dates then they are randomly chosen to be included in the draw by the computer which chooses the horse that raced the longest time ago and/or randomly chooses the horse that has the same preference date and then does the draw for post position.

Are any changes coming to SC's TrackIT platform?

TrackIt platform is going to be upgraded and updated and will be a part of the Single Sign On project. There are no dates to announce at this time.

Freeze Branding vs. Microchipping

In 2019, the Board of Directors voted to move in favour of microchipping instead of freeze branding and agreed to work in unison with our American counterpart USTA due to the movement of our racehorses back and forth from both countries.

Will SC freeze brand horses going forward?

SC offers both freeze branding and microchipping. Any member may have their horse freeze branded and microchipped if requested.

Why wasn't the issue of not to freeze brand put to the membership for a vote?

The Bylaws, approved by the Board, the membership, and the government, allows the Breeders Committee the latitude to make that decision. As per SC Bylaw, Article 4.14, the Breeders Committee has governance of Bylaw #2 and Regulation #2. The Breeders Committee proposes amendments to Bylaw #2 which is voted on by and approved by the membership. In Bylaw #2, Article 5, the Breeders Committee establishes the regulations for the individual identification of the horse which is posted in Regulation #2, Article #2 and the committee has governance of Regulation #2 that does not need approval of the membership.

What is SC's position regarding the "#IStandforthebrand"?

This has been discussed at length in Board meetings. The Breeders Committee met February 9th to discuss. A point from the Breeders Committee meeting included solving the core issue in how to prevent horses from getting to the kill pen.

Can breeding numbers and other statistics be posted on the website?

Mr. Gall responded positively that he would consult with the Breeders Committee about posting the charts from his presentation to the website.

11. Termination

Chair advised a survey will be sent to all of tonight's attendees in order to collect feedback on tonight's meeting.

Mr. Richard Veilleux motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill McLinchey, Chair