

USIHC Board Meeting Minutes for Oct. 23rd, 2007

Regional Club Observers: Dawn Shaw, Cascade Icelandic Horse Club, Alys Culhane, Alaska Icelandic Horse Association, Annette Coulon, Kraftur

Members Present: Anne Elwell, Andrea Barber, Ed Hilgaertner, Laura Benson, Barb Riva, Katrin Sheehan, Bernie Willis

Secretary Report:

Barb indicated that she was catching up on the reports from the summer and wanted to know if the board wanted her to continue with the nearly word for word transcriptions or if a summary would be sufficient. There were no objections to a summary for the minutes. Anne wanted enough information to show a flavor of the discussion, what things were taken into consideration when making decisions.

It was decided that the overwhelming task of transcribing the annual meeting would be done by Mary Montgomery for \$300. There were bids up to \$690 for the job.

Treasurers Report:

Aug. 31 balance \$8943.88

Sept. 30 balance \$9020.84

Ed reported that pay pal was up and working. Six persons had used it so far with a cost to the USIHC of \$2.00 per use on the average. The actual cost varies depending upon type of membership. Barb asked if there were any other fees associated with the use of pay pal. Ed and Laura said, no. Ed indicated that with 500 members the USIHC will have \$1000 less income over the next year but that increasing membership fees now was unnecessary. Bernie said it would be legitimate to raise them as of the first of the year.

Registrar's Report (Caryn Cantella):

Balance as of 9-30-2007 is \$66,957.05. I am happy to say that I only have 4 US born horses left to enter into WF. I was able to get the last Danish horse entered and the 10 offspring, along with 1 Canadian and 1 German horse and their offspring. The 3 left are from 2 German horses. I will keep trying but not sure if these horses will ever be able to be entered because I have been unable to trace the horses back to Iceland. The German registration papers are incomplete. I am currently working with the German WF registrar on these two German registries. (Nothing new to report from Asta)

Breeding Committee Report:

Katrin reported that the recent breeding evaluation in NY went without any problems. Eight horse were there all of which scored over 7.5 with 2 over 8.0.

FIZO update:

Marlise Grimm, the FEIF breeding leader has asked Katrin to rewrite FIZO so the English and German versions are in agreement. This is finished and Marlise agrees with the changes. When FEIF accepts this new version then it will be included with the USIHC breeding handbook and that handbook will be complete.

Competition Committee Report:

Heidi Kline reports that the Tunbridge show has been officially sanctioned and all paperwork has been received. Dillsburg is waiting for sanctioning because of paperwork not yet received. I have e-mailed Anne about it this week. Los Angeles show has the same issue and I have spoken with the organizer and she assures me that it is on its way. Santa Ynez show was this past weekend. I already have the data file and paperwork is already in transit. Kentucky is coming up and this is the last show of the year.

The proposal regarding Bit restriction by Sali Peterson is still in committee.

Katrin brought three proposals from the sport competition committee chair, Heidi Kline. See **New Business**.

Education Committee Report:

Alexandra Pregitzer reports:

1) Riding Badge Program

The Education Committee had suggested making some changes for the riding badge program. Enclosed is the introductory page with the changes I made for the board to check and approve. The following changes were made

1. information that the program is for members only
2. information for instructors and examiners to get in touch with the Education Committee for further details
3. request for required paper work to be sent to the USIHC in order to keep track of the program and send out badges
4. administrative fee to send out badges and handle paper work for the program. Suggested amount USD 20 per student.

The Board decided to delay the decision to charge a fee until the November meeting.

The Education Committee is requesting that the Board proofs the wording and approves changes for the web site accordingly.

I am enclosing two attachments -

- request for changes to the program. Wording added to introductory page
- form for organizers/instructors to send in before/after seminar to get addresses to send out badges
- and for general information

B) Sports Judges Education Program

We will be hosting another judging seminar in combination with the Kentucky Show this November. The show will take place in Lexington at the Lexington Horse Park in the end of November and will be hosted by Gudmar Petursson.

Marlise Grimm, who has conducted the past intern judge seminars in the US is flying in to do the training and testing for this seminar.

The seminar will take place Wed, Thurs and Friday Nov 14 thru Nov 16 with all day training (class room style, videos and life horse judging). Participants can either take part only in this part of the seminar to further educate themselves or they can choose to take a test on Saturday and Sunday Nov 17 and Nov 18 to become US intern judges . The test consists of a practical part in which

participants will judge the riders in the KY show and scores will get compared to a judges scores. Another part of the test is an oral exam.

For further information, contact alexandra.pregitzer@gmx.de

The education committee has come up with two drafts for an ID card for the intern judges as well as a form for proof of currency (to fill in for intern ships etc...). Both forms are attached to this email.

The committee is requesting that the Board proves the wording and layout for both and allows us to put the proof of currency on the web site while the card will be made and mailed. Prices for making the cards will be requested but the costs should be minimal.

At the same time I have started a file for all intern judges to keep an overview on who is certified, if current on their intern ships etc...

Pleasure Rider Report:

No report for Oct.

Policy Report:

Anne reported that she will have the policy paper by the Nov. meeting.

Promotion Committee Report:

Laura reported that she had done an interview for Horse Illustrated magazine and that a significant article on Icelandic Horses was coming out in the Jan. issue. She wanted to put an add in the magazine about the USIHC. Much discussion followed with prices considered. Finally it was decided to ask Sophie Katakozinos to negotiate a price with Horse Illustrated, further that if she wasn't able to get a good price we would pay for a whole page add at \$1025.

(Following the board meeting Laura submitted two appropriate adds for the board to select from. While they were being considered via e-mail Laura was notified by Horse Illustrated that since the USIHC was not a breeder as such it would be limited to a three inch add in conjunction with the article. Since all the adds on file were designed for full page and not readable when reduced in size and the deadline of Nov. 5 was up, the decision to put the add in the magazine would not be realized)

Regional Clubs Report:

A new club in the Pacific Northwest has been accepted.

Quarterly Report:

Anne indicated that nothing with the Quarterly needs board attention at this time.

Website Report:

Katrin reported that Mark and the committee have developed a new list of contents where each main topic is listed. When the cursor is placed over a word in the list, the subtopics come into view. Those who have tested the new system give a positive report.

Doug Smith submitted a proposal for the Web Site Committee. See **New Business**.

Bernie asked about the website Hestakaup? He indicated that it shows the use and history of the Icelandic Horse in a user friendly way. It's not a sales promotion but very educational. Some board members didn't like the website at all and others were concerned that the board had no control over its content. Katrin suggested that we allow a page of links for a fee with a disclaimer that would allow such links as well as advertising for Icelandic related items for sale such as horses, tack etc. She will follow up on this with the website committee.

Youth Committee Report (Sandie Weaver):

No report for October.

Old Business:

Congress Brochure - Laura is waiting for text from Andrea.

Website - Bernie phoned both Mark Peal and Doug Smith regarding their respective interests. It was decided that Mark will remain chair of the committee and that both he and Doug will have access to the site for changes including updates of information. This will allow for changes to be made when either of them is not available.

Annual Meeting

Katrin reported that plans were well developed for next year's annual meeting to be held in Madison Georgia. Following last years meeting she surveyed the membership via e-mail and learned that nearly all parties were interested in having educational activities associated with the meeting. In addition she learned that many members would like to meet with committee leaders and members to discuss issues but not commit to being committee members themselves. As a result she proposes that the format for the annual meeting be similar to that of the FEIF seminar. The day will begin with the major committees, competition, breeding, education; youth having separate meetings open to the public. This would be followed by a general meeting where the committee chairs would present the result of the morning individual meetings. The normal annual reports would be available on our website and on paper for those interested at the meeting. Board members would be available to answer questions. Annual awards would be given at the evening banquet.

During the week preceding the annual meeting Creekside Farm 7 miles from Madison would host a variety of educational programs. These would include a breeding judge seminar, the end of an international trainer course, a pace judging seminar and a young horse evaluation seminar. The leaders of these various clinics would be available for one to two hour presentations in the afternoon of the annual meeting.

The board as a whole supported the change in format but had some questions about transportation to and from the Atlanta airport about an hour away and the costs to the USIHC for all the activities.

Katrin confirmed that her farm would host and pay for the educational activities through user fees and sponsorships. The cost to the USIHC would be about \$250 for the conference room at the Hampton Inn. A bus service should be self supporting at \$12 per trip each way from Atlanta. The cost of refreshments and banquet would be \$50 per person slightly less than last years cost. Accommodations in the area range from \$18.00 for the state park to \$1000.00 at the finest hotel.

Details of the annual meeting will be presented at the Nov. board meeting in time to be approved and make the Dec. 1 deadline for advertising in the next Quarterly magazine.

Vote - Unanimous to hold the next annual meeting in Madison Georgia on March 29, 2008.

New Business:

Proposal #1 submitted by Asta Covert, Registrar:

Asta Covert, the registrar has proposed that the certificate of origin be required as proof of ownership for registration of horses imported from Iceland. Anne said this certificate has always been required. Laura and Bernie clarified the issue by reviewing the recent changes from Iceland. For many years a plastic covered certificate of origin came with imported horses. This was replaced by a horse passport. Now both are being issued. The passport identifies the horse but the certificate of origin confirms ownership.

Ed moved that we accept the proposal.

Vote – Unanimous

Proposal #2 submitted by Heidi Kline, Competition Committee:

The current restriction of housing judges before and during a show is too restrictive, costly and suggest a problem with integrity. The sport competition committee recommends that the restriction be lifted and that judges be allowed to stay wherever they want, in homes of competitors if they choose.

Bernie had asked Ed to craft some language that could be used if the board approved the request. He developed the following: Housing and hotel accommodations are the responsibility of the show organizer/host. To reduced the perception of any impropriety the host must make a concerted effort to provide each participant the opportunity for equal access including training sessions with the visiting judges.

Laura and Katrin said the judge needs to be accessible to everybody. Ed agreed that equal access is the key. Andrea said that the theory is good but in practicality it just won't work. Anne wanted to stay with the existing system of keeping the judge from staying with a competitor before and during a show. Barb said a hotel was not necessary but a private home would often be preferred. Andrea indicated that some people can't be bothered to try to find a good location to put up the judges. Katrin reminded the board that in other countries the judge stays with competitors without a problem and that it saves expenses. Anne felt that it doesn't affect costs in most situations.

Vote -

To restrict judge housing to public place or homes of non competitors - Barb, Ed, Anne, Andrea

To allow judges the option of staying wherever they choose - Katrin, Laura, Bernie

The current wording in the sport competition rules will remain regarding the housing of judges.

Proposal #3 submitted by Heidi Kline, Competition Committee:

Persons who have attended the sport judge seminar and not passed or taken the test be allowed to scribe at competitions. It has recently been a problem to get qualified scribes at the US Shows. As our rules currently are Sport Committee members or Intern Judges are allowed to scribe. We would also like to add that anyone who has taken the 3 day Judging Seminar. They need not take the exam. Both Anne Ellwell and I feel that this would give us more options for scribbles.

Sometimes last minute something happens and we scramble to find someone because the original person can't make it. It also gives a scribe the basis of knowledge they will need to do a good job for the judge. The judge will not have to spend his or her time explaining the rules and the marks. All this is taught in the seminar. I can't see that there are any negative points to this proposal. No one on the Sport Committee voted against it. It was a very positive response.

Vote - Yes, unanimous

Proposal #4 submitted by Doug Smith, Web Site Committee:

Doug Smith proposes that direct links be provided from the USIHC webpage farm list to the respective web pages of the listed farm.

Vote - in favor of the farm web page links, Unanimous

Meeting adjourned, 11PM eastern.

Bernie Willis