

**Ontario Eventing Association (OEA) Annual General Meeting
November 4, 2023
Enercare Centre, Toronto, Ontario**

DRAFT

Present:

OEA Directors: Ann Neal, Veronica Low, Kendal Lehari, Kelly Gravelle, Justin Ridgewell, Sarah Richardson, Doug Topalovic, Nikki Maclellan, Cheryl Denault, Tori Pengelly, Terri Hough-Gilmour, Char Hodgson, Bernadette Johnston, Jamie Kellock

Regrets: Linda Plank

Members: Anna Myles, Kim McGurrin, Sara Trayes, Bernadette Johnston, Alexa MacLaren, Gabrielle Turcotte, Rachel Keaveney, Emily Boyce, Donna VanBeek, Sean McIntosh, Diana Burnett, Emma McDonald, Aaron McDonald, Cristina Barbour, Olivia Gregg, Stella Barboin, Michele Downey, Victoria Downey Wanda Mctaggart, Tori Pengelly, Ashley Minion, Ann Heuckendorff, Hayley Cairns, Danika Houston, Emily Thompson, Erin Hotson, Jacque Kelton, Katie Labarge, Kerry Prevett, Trinity Prevett, Ashley Boulton, Amy Kryshuk, Anna Zakrevska, Natalie Savoie, Audrey Coleman

Other Attendees: Meg Kreuger,

Call to Order: 1:04 pm

1. Welcome

Veronica Low President welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She reminded participants that they must be an OEA member to vote.

2. Approval of 2023 AGM Agenda and 2022 AGM minutes

On a motion duly made by Bernadette Johnston, seconded by Justin Ridgewell and unanimously carried, the members approved the agenda for the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

On a motion duly made by V. Low seconded by N. Maclellan and unanimously carried the members approved the minutes from the December 14 2022 Annual General Meeting.

3. Introductions and Opening Remarks

Veronica Low introduced herself as the current President of the OEA, although this is the last year of her term and as President. A new President will be elected at the first Board meeting of the 2024 Board of Directors. The OEA Board is a dedicated group of 13 volunteers from all over the province. We have an Executive and full Board. We meet once a month. We are a not-for-profit organization committed to the sport of eventing.

4. Presidents Address

Veronica Low presented an overview of 2023. There were changes to the names of each level officially.

It was said in 2020, to help our members during COVID-19, we offered a “bonus year” which helped carry our members into 2021 and 2022.

2023 saw membership actually stabilize, without the “bonus year.”

The bulk of our members sign-up at The Royal.

Members are from across the province.

Membership numbers are similar to those last year.

Entries up in 2023, by nearly 15%

EV90 & EV85 remain the most popular divisions

EV60 proved to be very popular

87% of all riders compete at EV100 and below

It was noted that We CANNOT thank our Organizers enough for holding **sanctioned events** and in doing so, they up-hold a standard of best practices, with a PRIMARY focus on safety.

Sanctioned competitions offer a pathway to High Performance, including leaderboards and inter- provincial championships.

Without them, we would not have eventing in Ontario. There would be NO sanctioned competitions.

Somewhere in our grassroots is our next Olympian.

a. Schooling Days

Sarah Richardson provided an overview of Schooling Days. They are intended to introduce riders to the sport of eventing but also to help existing riders upgrade their skills. As an example, she noted that the Stevens Creek XC Schooling Day held July 20th was fully subscribed with 26 registrants, with 50% of riders being new or returning to the sport. Of the riders who were new or returning, over 50% went on to enter the sanctioned horse trials the following week.

Goals for 2023 include: developing at least one additional XC venue; develop indicators of success based on data; and revisit Schooling Day policies to ensure they meet the intention of attracting new riders in a safe and sanctioned environment.

b. Volunteers

Volunteers were acknowledged and thanked as organizers couldn't run their events without them.

c. Levies

OEA has charged competitors \$5 per entry to help support OEA programs, since 2007.

The levies are intended to provide education, training and programs to grow our sport. In 2021 we added Part C to our CIP to specifically support the cost of frangibles. In 2022 we are also using a portion of the levies to fund Officials development by paying TDs who work as Assistant TDs for the purpose of upgrading.

5. U25 Program

Kendal Lehari gave an overview of this program in 2022. Participants were charged \$100 to participate which gave riders access to clinics, a dedicated leaderboard, sponsored prizes, online education and discounted branded clothing. In 2022 there were 66 horse and rider combinations participating in the program with riders from across the province.

Kendal noted that up to a total of \$10,000 in Travel and Training Grants were offered with up to \$1000 per rider to assist with travel and/or to train with a coach in order to improve their skills and horsemanship. A total of 14 riders applied and twelve grants were awarded totaling \$9,500 was awarded in 2022. I

At the end of August, an assessment clinic was held for the riders longlisted to attend the USEA Young Rider Championships in Tryon on November 9 to 13. We have a terrific group of riders representing Canada which will include Victoria Downey and Saffron Klotz in the CCI1*L and Cassandre Leblanc and Meghan Sauve in the CCI2*L.

Kendal also acknowledged the important sponsors which make the U25 program possible, and noted exciting changes for 2023 including:

- Opening the program up to riders at all levels (not just PT and above)
- Revamping the clinic format
- Working on new clinicians for 2023

6. Zara Buren Memorial Award

This award is being renewed for 2023 and applications will open on December 15th. Applications will close January 17th with the award winner announced on or around February 15th. The Zara Buren Memorial Award is made possible by the Zara Buren Memorial Foundation with support from the OEA. Olivia MacLeod was the 2022 winner.

7. Financial Report

Cheryl Denault, Treasurer, presented an overview of the OEA Balance sheet, expenses and revenues for the 2023 fiscal year against budget. Our financial position continues to be healthy with sustained membership numbers. It is better than we expected primarily because of our membership growth.

Major sources of income

Membership fees

Day memberships

Levy's. \$5 of every entry does come to the OEA.

Also sponsored awards

Major expenses - bank fees insurance website zoom

Member services - ribbons, prizes, member appreciation (eastern champs breakfast etc)

Organizer perspective - assisted with cost of paying tds
Organizers develop for officials - bursaries
We also sponsored the tent for an officials course at Bromont this year
We spent \$7000 more than brought in. This was done on purpose as we have too many funds as it
it
Veronica motioned to accept the 2023 financials
Nikki
Bernadette seconded

On a motion made by V. Low, seconded by K. Gravelle and unanimously carried, the members approved the October 31, 2022 financial statements.

8. Election of Directors

Three Directors have terms coming to an end as of November 2022 and Veronica thanked them for their service including Ann Neal, President, Caroline Abrahams, Secretary and Kelly Gravelle, Chair of the Board. Ann will continue on the BOD as Chairperson and Kelly Gravelle is joining the Equestrian Canada Board of Directors. Caroline will continue to support annual Leaderboards as a volunteer.

Kendal Lehari is up for re-election for a second term. We are very pleased to identify four new candidates standing for election; Victoria Pengelly, Bernadette Johnston; and Jamie Kellock.

On a motion made by V. Low, seconded by N. Maclellan and unanimously carried, the following individuals were confirmed as returning and new directors of the OEA, to serve until their successors are duly elected:

*Kendal Lehari (returning)
Victoria Pengelly
Bernadette Johnston
Jamie Kellock*

9. What's new for 2023

We are very pleased to release our 2023 Competition Calendar with a full year of events in Ontario. We are continuing with the CIP program, and we are planning on offering schooling days in 2023.

10. Coaching

Kendal Lehari presented on initiatives for 2023 including making February Mental Health Wellness month. We hope to increase the number of certified and licensed coaches, rider level clinics and to offer first aid clinics.

11. Year End Awards

Nikki Maclellan provided an overview of the Year End awards and they can be found at [this link](#).

[2022 End of Year Awards](#)

12. Meeting termination

Ann asked if there were any questions or any further business. There being no further business, a motion was made by V. Low, to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m.