

## 2015 Minutes

### Report from the 2015 USBCHA Annual Meeting

First, I apologize for not doing this sooner, but I have been on the road since the Finals!

The Annual General Meeting for the USBCHA was held at the National Finals in Alturas, CA on September 23, 2015. After a brief review of some business items, those in attendance met in small groups (6-8 members per group) for "Discussion Items." Each group was asked to pick a "scribe" to take a few notes and report back to the entire group on the discussion. This report summarizes the discussion that followed.

#### Discussion Topic #1: Single Day Qualifying

The Board has previously been asked to consider altering the way dogs qualify from the preliminary round into the semi-finals and to adopt "single-day qualifying." Under this method, the top 10 dogs from each day would qualify instead of the top 40 from 4 days. I presented data that has been gathered over 4 finals. When the weather is consistent, there have been 8-12 qualifiers per day. In 2012, there was one bad weather day with only 5 qualifiers. It is for this reason and other reasons that the Board has been asked to consider single-day qualifying.

Each group was asked to think of the pros and cons to single-day qualifying. Here is a summary of the group reports (which were similar):

#### **PROS**

- Evens out the playing field if there is a bad weather day
- Sheep are handled and change over the 4 days even if they haven't been run so it would be more fair
- Judging is likely to be more consistent when judging 1 day at a time; it is more difficult to be consistent over 4 days of judging
- If a Judge became ill, it would be more fair if required to substitute a judge under single-day qualifying

#### **CONS**

- It's not broke, so don't fix it
- Dog trialing always includes a bit of the "luck of the draw" so stick with it
- Want to compete directly against everyone in the preliminary round
- May need to avoid stacking all the "top dogs" in one day if random draw doesn't take care of it.

#### **SUMMARY**

In the group discussion and straw vote that followed, there was quite a bit of support for changing to single-day qualifying so long as we had fresh sheep everyday. As a practical matter, we would need to have fresh sheep for each day of Open to accommodate the sheep requirements of the Nursery Finals even if the change was made. Also, moving to single day qualifying would require us to take 152 dogs in the preliminary round so that the same number of dogs ran every day. The Board could make these adjustments.

The issue of single day qualifying will be presented to the Board for a vote early next year. If you have thoughts on the matter, you are encouraged to contact your District Director.

## Discussion Topic #2 - Nursery Qualification and Finals

This was a wide-open discussion on the Nursery program. I gave a brief description of some of the comments and suggestions I have received over the year. Several topics were discussed in the various groups and reported back to the group as a whole. My notes on the various topics include the following (in no particular order):

- Change from a combined score from two runs (currently only the top 40% get a second run) and have a preliminary run and a final run (presumably still only 40%). Final run would include a "split" and the scores from the final run would determine the Nursery Champion. Nearly every group was in favor of including a split on the final run.
- Set course guidelines for the Nursery Finals like we do for the Open Finals.
- Qualifying should be only from judged trials, not points/time trials.
- Should be able to qualify by placing in top 20% of PN/OR class if insufficient number of nursery dogs for a nursery class.
- Have a minimum age requirement for nursery dogs.
- Do not allow a dog to run in both Nursery and Open at the Finals.
- Allow a dog to run only once in a Nursery Final (if a "2-year" Nursery dog, need to pick which year you want to run).
- Change the import rule, but can't run a dog that has won a championship in another country.
- Use a point qualifying system.
- Mandate a trial course size to qualify.

- Leave the program as is (except maybe a split in the final).

There was a great discussion about all of these suggestions and comments. I will be forming a Nursery Committee after the first of the year to look at the list of ideas. This doesn't necessarily mean there will be any changes, but the committee will consider the suggestions (and other ideas) and will make recommendations (if any) to the Board.

Again, if you have thoughts on the Nursery program, please contact your District Director.

One final discussion item that came up was the concern about non-members entering sanctioned trials. Our sanctioning fees are down, yet many trials are over-subscribed. It was suggested that we charge a surcharge for non-members (\$3.00 was suggested). It has also been suggested that members be given preference in the draw for over-subscribed trials. These ideas will be submitted to the Rules Committee.

All in all, it was a very interesting and hopefully productive discussion. I know that I enjoyed it and I hope that others did as well.

Other items on the agenda, such as election results, have previously been reported on the website. One other item that I mentioned was our desire to upgrade our website. If anyone has some resources for someone who can help with that project, please let Annemarie know.

Thanks again to Geri Byrne, Amy Coapman, Lana Rowley and their incredible crew - it was a great Finals!

And thanks to all who came to the meeting. I look forward to the next year - we still have work to do!

Carol Clawson

## **USBCHA Director's Meeting Minutes**

**August 19, 2015**

### **Telephonic Conference Call**

Attendees: Corey Perry, Paul Tucker, Ron Burkey, Terry Folsom, Barbara Levinson, Chris Bowen, Lori Perry, Lori Cunningham, Jim Murphy, Pearse Ward, Cathy Scott, Amanda Milliken, Lana Rowley, Dwight Parker, Thad Fleming, David Soppe, Bob Washer, Robin French, Annemarie Holland (Secretary), Carol Clawson (President). Scott Glen could not attend and gave his proxy to Carol.

Guests: Don Helsley and Patrick Shannahan.

The meeting commenced at approximately 6:15 p.m. Pacific Time.

#### **1. Finals Update**

Carol provided a brief update on the 2015 Finals based in recent information from Geri Byrne. The field is good to go and will be cut the first part of September so that the hay will be off in plenty of time. Fundraising is on track. Promotional material has arrived. There are about 75

volunteers as well as the 4-H helping with various items. The Association's time clock is being repaired and sent to Geri.

## 2. **Final discussion items: sheep and single day qualifying**

Don Helsley requested that the Board consider having 5 sheep for the Open Preliminary Rounds. The contract for the 2015 Finals indicates there will be 650-700 sheep, which is not enough to run 5 sheep in the preliminary open round. It takes 800 sheep. Carol explained that, if we run 4 sheep in the open, we need to run just 3 sheep in the Nursery to insure the proper rotation of sheep and that sheep are not run more than once in one day (once in open and once in nursery). Don's position is that we should have 5 sheep in the finals and require taking two of the back. Carol indicated that we could increase the number of sheep for less than \$3000 and that she would request the ABCA to pay for half of that cost. The ABCA has already provided a grant for ½ of the anticipated stock costs.

Amanda Milliken made a motion to contract for additional sheep and to run 5 sheep in the preliminary run and 4 in the nursery rounds. Terry Folsom seconded the motion. The motion passed with 2 No votes (Scott Glen and Paul Tucker).

Patrick Shannahan then made a presentation asking the Board to consider single day qualifying. Patrick pointed out many of the reasons for single day qualifying. There was a discussion by the Board considering both the reasons for and against single day qualifying. Lori Cunningham expressed a concern for making any change this year without members knowing prior to the entry deadline. After a general discussion, Carol suggested that the matter be continued and reconsidered after the Finals. She further suggested that Directors discuss it with their constituents. There was a suggestion that it be a discussion item at the Annual Meeting and Carol indicated she would put it on the agenda.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Don Helsley and Patrick Shannahan left the call.

## 3. **Nursery Finals - qualifying for final round**

Carol noted that she has had several people ask how many dogs qualify for the final nursery round. The rules are silent on this. She proposed a rule that would clarify it. There was discussion on the proposal rule. Amanda moved for the addition of the following rule:

- Dogs placing in the top forty percent (40%) of the first Nursery Final run, not to exceed 50 dogs, will run in the second Nursery run. Prize money will be paid to the top 20 dogs based on the combined score of two runs.

Bob Washer seconded the motion. The motion passed with 1 No vote (David Soppe).

## 4. **Proposed Rule Changes**

Carol previously provided the Board with some proposed Rule changes, which have been reviewed and recommended by the Rules Committee. There was discussion on each proposed change with the following action taken:

Part II, C, Rules 12 and 13: Robin French moved that Rules 12 and 13 of Part II.C. be deleted from the rules. Cathy Scott seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The text of the two deleted rules follows:

- 12. A contestant may drop out of any contest due to injury to himself, his dog, or due to sickness/death in his family
- 13. A contestant shall not at any time withdraw from any trial he or she is participating in due to dissatisfaction, grievance with the judge/judges, trial management, or other contestants without forfeiting all money/prizes he may have won in previous runs at that trial.

A.3.b. Current Rule:

- The three (3) dollar sanctioning fee, along with the trial results form is to be mailed to the HA Secretary's office not later than twenty-one (21) days after the trial. The HA Secretary will notify the discipline committee if trial management fails to abide by this rule.
- Proposed modification:

The three (3) dollar sanctioning fee, along with the trial results form is to be mailed to the HA Secretary's office no later than twenty-one (21) days after the trial. The Secretary shall assess a penalty of \$25.00 per class for all reports filed after the 21 days. If a trial report is late for two consecutive years, the trial host shall be referred to the Grievance Committee and the trial will not be sanctioned in the following year without pre-payment of sanctioning fees in an amount equal to 10% more than the prior year's fees. Any overage shall be refunded when and if the results are filed in a timely manner.

Jim Murphy moved to adopt the proposed change. Lori Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with one No vote (David Soppe).

B.6 Current Rule:

Points/deductions for each competitor shall be recorded on an acceptable score sheet and the judge is required to review each score sheet at the completion of the run to ensure accuracy. The score sheets are to be retained by the trial host or secretary for a period of not less than thirty (30) days. The trial secretary may make a copy of the score sheet if requested by competitor. Judging sheets are available for download on the HA website but it is not essential that trial hosts use the HA judging sheets.

Proposed Change: increase the period of time that sheets are kept by the secretary or host from "not less than 30 days" to "through the current year's National Finals."

Paul Tucker moved to adopt the proposed change. Robin French seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Part II, 2 A.c:

Jim Murphy moved for the addition of subsection (c) to Part II, A.2 concerning the 30-day deadline for applying for sanctioning of a trial. It was noted that the Board had previously discussed this procedure at some point but no action was taken. Terry Folsom seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The additional subsection states:

2. Deadlines

c. The 30-day requirement may be waived with the consent of the two Directors from the District in which the trial will take place provided there is a good reason for the delay and so long as the

opening day for entries is no less than 14 days prior to the trial date, or the trial will accept same-day entries. Any such waiver is on a case-by-case basis and for one year only.

## 5. **Grievance Report**

Lori Cunningham reported on a grievance filed by Jennifer Clark Ewers against Amelia Smith. She summarized the nature of the grievance, the response and the investigation. The Report and Recommendation as well as the investigation notes were provided to the Board in advance. The grievance was against Ms. Smith for unsportsmanlike conduct, alleging profanity at a trial within the hearing of spectators and/or other handlers. The Board discussed the grievance, recommendation as well as the publication of the Board's decision. The Grievance committee recommended that the complaint be substantiated but noted that the incident was not what they would define as egregious, but was more minor in nature. The Grievance committee recommended that Ms. Smith receive a warning and be required to write an apology to the trial management. After discussion, Pearse moved for adoption of the Committee's report and recommended sanction. Ron Burkey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Terry Folsom abstained from voting on the motion.

The Board also discussed whether the warning should be published. The current rule states:

Part II, F. 7 states:

- Publication: When the BOD has ruled on a complaint and disciplinary action has been taken against a member, or non-member, the person's name, the rule violated, and the disciplinary action taken shall be published on the USBCHA website. Warnings shall not be published other than as a general description of the offense but without identifying information.

Amanda moved to delete the last sentence of rule 7 above. Barb Levinson seconded the motion. Discussion concerned primarily the need to inform members that grievances are taken seriously and action is taken. The motion opposed unanimously. The new rule will be as follows:

- Publication: When the BOD has ruled on a complaint and disciplinary action has been taken against a member, or non-member, the person's name, the rule violated, and the disciplinary action taken shall be published on the USBCHA website.

The result is that Ms. Smith will receive a warning and it will be published on the site. Carol stated that she would ask Joanne to create a separate page for items of misconduct on which all substantiated grievances will be published.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m. pacific time.

## **USBCHA BOARD MEETINGS & MINUTES**

**By Conference Call**

**JUNE 16, 2015**

## **USBCHA BOARD MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:** Jim Murphy, Carol Clawson, Annemarie Holland, Emil Luedecke, Amanda Milliken, Ron Burkey, Geri Burnes, Scott Glenn, Bob Washer, Terry Folsom, Terry Murray, David Soppe, Chris Bowen, Herbert Holmes, Marianna Schreeder, Lori Cunningham, Dwight Parker, Pearse Ward, Thad Fleming, Lana Rowley, Paul Tucker, Lori Perry, Cathy Scott, Corey Perry.

**Meeting commenced at 9:10pm (ET)**

**Item 1: 2015 Finals Update (Geri Burnes)**

Geri reported that fundraising was on track with approximately 1/3 of dog sponsorships sold. It was noted that a USBCHA Board member still needs to visit the field.

Carol reminded everyone that the Finals will run from Monday through Saturday (September 21-26, 2015), with the Handlers meeting on the Sunday prior to the start.

**Item 2: Trophies**

It was reported that many of the traveling trophies are either full or missing. The difficulty in gathering these trophies each year was reiterated. Also considered was the ability of the handler to receive a lasting memento relating to their Final's "special" award. A brief discussion occurred raising the possibility of a keepsake for the handler with the associated permanent award remaining in possession of the USBCHA and traveling to the Finals. Carol proposed that the topic be moved to the forum for further discussion.

**Item 3: 2016 Finals**

A single bid was received for the 2016 National Finals.

**MOTION** - Ron Burkey moved that the USBCHA ratify its decision (on the Forum) to accept the bid from Carbondale Colorado/Strang Ranch to host the 2016 National Finals. The motion was seconded by Bob Washer. The motion passed. There were no dissenting votes.

**Item 4: Amended/Restated Bylaws - Proposed Ballot**

The Bylaws and Rules in their current form are outdated and poorly organized. Carol has acquired a copy of the original Articles of Incorporation for the Association. The Rules and Bylaws will become distinct from one another and should be easier to navigate once project is complete. She reiterated that while the Board may change rules, it may only make recommendations to the general membership regarding any Bylaw changes.

**Ballot Item 1** - Board recommends adoption of the Amended and Restated Bylaws.

**Ballot Item 2** - To effectively run the association, the Board should have the flexibility to adjust dues as a matter of Rule, rather than Bylaw.

**MOTION:** Terry Folsom moved that Ballot Item 2 - Article III be Board recommended as a Yes vote.

**REVISED MOTION:** The Board recommends that the Article III be adopted to allow dues to be set by Rule, rather than Bylaw. Revised motion seconded by Jim Murphy.

**Motion passed.**

**Ballot Item 4 - This amendment proposed to make Sheepdog finals qualification consistent with the Nursery and Cattle qualifications which are included in the Rules, rather than the Bylaws. This proposed change generated much discussion primarily centering on the concern that the membership would perceive this as an attempt to potentially shut them out of the process, or that it would be too easy for the Directorate to change qualification requirements if this were a rule.**

**MOTION: Pearse Ward moved that this Item not be included on the Ballot in any form. Motion seconded by Cathy Scott. Motion passed with 2 dissenting votes. The dissenters believed that the membership should have the opportunity to determine whether this should be a Rule or Bylaw.**

**Ballot Item 3 - Proposed amendment introduces term limits for Directors. Discussion focused on the need for experience in order to serve effectively as well as an engaged pool of potential candidates. Suggestions for creating candidacies included recruitment by outgoing incumbent directors and regional nominating committees. It was additionally suggested that a more fluid Directorate (in terms of turnover) could encourage members to volunteer for service without concern for displacing a long favored incumbent. The appropriate length of service, along with the period during which a "termed out" director could not run was discussed with the consensus being 6 consecutive years of service.**

**MOTION: Herbert Holmes moved that this Item be included on the ballot with a Board recommended term limit of 6 consecutive years. Motion was seconded by Emil Luedecke. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 5: Grievance Rule Changes**

**The Grievance Rule committee submitted amended grievance rules and process. This included the addition of General Principals; consistent process for a complaint and a protest; timing deadlines defined; procedures to follow; and conflict of interest language. Discussion by the directors focused on clarification of use of the video limitation, the removal of the proposed "frivolous in its face" provision; the Standing disciplinary committee - length of service, need or not to define how to assign/appoint members and with whom such authority resides. The period of time within which a protest/complaint must be filed was challenged by several directors as too long or short - eventual consensus appeared to be that filing must occur within 14 days. Several typos in the document were noted. MOTION: Paul Tucker moved that Item B.3 be removed from the proposed Rule, typos corrected, and the revised Rule be adopted. The motion was seconded by Bob Washer. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 6: Other Business**

**There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 pm (ET).**

---

**By Conference Call**

**JANUARY 20, 2015**

**ATTENDEES: Jim & Joanne Murphy, Carol Clawson, Annemarie Holland, Amanda Milliken, Ron Burkey, Geri Burnes, Scott Glenn, Bob Washer, Terry Folsom, David**



Soppe, Chris Bowen, Francis Raley, Marianna Schreeder, Lori Cunningham, Dwight Parker, Barbara Levinson, Pearce Ward, Thad Fleming, Lana Rowley

Meeting commenced at 11:10 am (ET)

**Item 1: 2015 Finals Update (Geri Burnes)**

Geri reported that the finals committee has secured sheep (\$11,000 - 700 hd) and hired an announcer, shepherds, clerks, and 2 of 3 set out set out crew. Fundraising efforts are continuing; a local marketing person has been hired.

Discussion regarding course directors for the finals. Jim retired last year and will need to be replaced. No decision was made but several ideas were discussed. The consensus was that there should be a single director for Open for 2015. Treasurer (Marianna Schreeder) noted that the 2015 finals budget is currently due.

**Item 2: 2015 Cattledog Finals Report (Thad Fleming)**

Thad reported that cattle for event are secured. Contract includes setout, exhaust and care. Tents are secured; course committee is working on course design. Fundraising efforts are on-going.

Whether a 2016 finals can be held appears to be a question as there are no new handlers or trials being added and the ability to secure the necessary cattle is questionable.

Thad emphasized the need to energize the cattledog side of the association if it is to succeed as enterprise.

**Item 3: Treasurers/Finance Report (Marianna Schreeder & Carol Clawson)**

Carol reminded the Board that Marianna was assisting in the preparation of the Association's 2014 tax return. Tax liability for 2014 approximated to be 15%.

Marianna reported that 1099's were due to be sent within required deadline. 2014 financials would be complete by the end of February 2015 and will then be submitted to accountant for compilation and completion of tax returns. She also reported on the resolution of the 2013 finals overpayment. 2014 Finals final budget and expenses are due from Bridget. Although the budget/expense information was not finalized as of this meeting, Marianna noted that a \$3300 profit sharing payment will be made to the USBCHA.

Regarding the transition, the Association's banking will be moved to Wells Fargo; existing CDs will remain with Texas bank until maturity/renewal.

**Item 4: Transition (Annemarie Holland, Joanne Murphy, Carol Clawson)**

Annemarie noted that she and Francis were both receiving membership and trial information until formal "handover" on February 1, 2015. Currently working on logistics for transfer of documentation related to same to Kentucky.

Joanne reported that the "Points" page would continue with Gene Scheninger's program. She has revised the "Upcoming Trials" page format and is working on updating the various other pages of the site. She also requested the directors provide current contact information to her to include in her updates.

Carol noted that a full rework of the website was a long term goal.

**Item 5: 2016 Finals - (Carol Clawson)**

Carol submitted National Final Bid Proposal Guidelines to the directors. Jim Murphy noted that "Course Director" should be added. Francis noted that in past, President actively solicited bids; response to a request process was not strong. Additional discussion regarding timeline for bids occurred.

**MOTION:** Pearce Ward moved that bids for the 2016 finals be submitted by April 15, 2015 and that going forward, bids would be due by December 31st. For example, bids for the 2017 National Finals would be due by December 31, 2015. The motion was seconded by Amanda Milliken. Motion passed with no objections.

**Item 6: MOTION:** Amanda moved that \$10,000 from the profit sharing money paid to the HA from the 2013 host committee be allocated to the set out for the next time the National Finals is held in the East.

Discussion on the motion followed. Objections to this motion related to "earmarking" money towards an expense that had not yet been budgeted for. It was noted that a review of budgets from previous finals would provide some data relating to costs associated this line item. It was also noted that the lack of Finals level set out crews available in the East made this a higher cost area. Further discussion demonstrated the necessity of the local committee's involvement in decisions related to selecting and hiring the set out for finals.

**AMENDED MOTION** by Pearce: Move that \$10,000 from the profit sharing money paid to the HA from the 2013 host committee be allocated to the next National Finals held in the East. Amanda accepted the revised motion which was then seconded by her. Motion passed with no objections.

**Item 7: Committees - TABLED**

**Item 8: Board Vacancies (Carol Clawson)**

District 5 - Lori Perry proposed, no objections from members so Carol will approach. At Large - Opening will be posted Francis will serve as Interim Director until Herbert Holmes is reinstated post suspension.

**Item 9: Other Business**

Carol noted that alternatives to conference calls, including the time frames for such to accommodate all represented time zones, would be explored including the possibility of a program such as Skype.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:19 pm (ET).