

USBCHA – Director’s Meeting

Date: July 30, 2019

5:00 p.m. Pacific Time; 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Attending: Peter Hall, Terri Warner, Mike Neary, Faansie Basson, Tracy Hinton, John Palmer, Stephanie Goracke, Mich Ferraro, Kay Stephens, Lyle Lad, Maria Amodei, Milton Scott, Linda Tesdahl, David Saunders

Minutes

1. Sheepdog 2019 Finals Update

a. Judge

Peter announced that Michael Gallagher withdrew as judge for the sheepdog finals. On the basis of votes by ABCA and USBCHA directors (and Peter Gonnott’s recusal earlier this year), Katy Cropper was contacted and offered the position, but declined, at which point Lori Cunningham was offered and accepted. The four judges for the finals will therefore be (in order of votes) Andrew Dickman, Don Helsley, Alberto Stern and Lori Cunningham.

b. Course approval

As directed by the Board during the last BOD meeting, Terri Warner was asked to review the Open and Nursery courses with Bridget and report back to the board. Terri reported her findings to me, and I subsequently distributed them to all members of the USBCHA and ABCA trial committees. Terri also consulted directly with Dennis Edwards and Joni Tietjen, both of whom have prior experience with the course setup as proposed. After some discussion among the Board, the course layout was approved, subject to minor tweaks as directed by the Trial Committee when it inspects the courses when the members arrive in Carbondale.

c. Key personnel

Peter requested a list of key personnel for the finals from Bridget and reported the choices to the Board. Mark and Shawn will set out for Open (on horseback), and Nursery setout will be managed by Mike Lupow and Terry LaPlatt. Cal Wedbe will be the Open field course director and will appoint one or more course directors for the Nursery field. There was some discussion among the Board regarding where the sheep will be set in the Open field, and whether judges had too much latitude in Alturas. It was decided to have the Trial Committee have final say in the matter and, under that condition, the key personnel proposed by Bridget was approved.

2. 2019 Finals Webcast

a. 5:00 Films & Media Proposal

In the last Board meeting, it was determined that more information is needed about the costs if a satellite link is needed for the internet connection. Peter subsequently contacted USBCHA’s contact at 5:00 Films & Media and requested its proposal include satellite uplink costs. 5:00 Films resubmitted the proposal with two options, one showing the qualifiers, semi-finals and finals webcasts, and the other showing the semi-finals and finals webcasts only. Both options were posted on the USBCHA Directors’ Forum prior to this Board meeting, and included a 1Mbs satellite uplink. Costs for the semi-finals/finals option were significantly less, and after some discussion, this was the option approved by the Board.

3. Grievance Committee

a. Andersen (Angie Coker-Sells)

Tracy Hinton presented the findings of the Grievance Committee regarding the complaint by Jeanne Murphy and Bridget Strang against Lise Andersen regarding a dog bite incident that occurred on May 2, 2019 at the Strang Ranch Trial in Carbondale, Colorado. Tracy summarized the committee’s investigation into the complaint, which was deemed to be thorough and complete. Grounds for discipline were found in the USBCHA rules, although neither rule that applied to this case had specific punishments ascribed to them. The committee recommended Lise Andersen

issue a written letter of apology to Jean Murphy. It did not recommend banning the dog from HA events, as it was felt the handler is ultimately responsible for the dog and if anyone should be banned, it should be the handler. Thus, Lise may bring Bob to HA events at her own risk, meaning if Bob bites another person Lise Andersen will be banned from HA events for a time period deemed appropriate. The committee found Bridget's complaints to be without merit as there is no rule stating that Lise had to tell the trial host her dog had bitten someone on host property. Finally, the committee suggested the USBCHA look into providing a model release form that could be attached to all HA-sanctioned trials.

Board discussion centered primarily on the release form. Stephanie Goracke mentioned the Texas Stock Dog Association form as a potential model. The Grievance Committee agreed with this approach, but also mentioned that research into the HA's insurance policy indicated that the policy defines dogs as personal property and liability is therefore within the handler's personal insurance policy. In general, the Board agreed that some sort of release form should be attached to every trial entry form, and directed Peter to look into it.

4. World Trial 2020

a. Qualifying Rule Clarification

Peter reported that the rule for handler/dog qualifications to the World Trial was updated as agreed to by the Board at the Directors in June.

b. Qualification Rules for Young Handlers

Mike Neary asked if any World Trial qualification rules for Young Handlers were on the books, as he has been requested to look into this by a member in his direct. Peter reported that, to his knowledge, only two Young Handlers have indicated their interest in competing at the World Trial next year, but agreed we need to have a process if more want to go. Peter was directed to convene a committee to come up with a set of qualifications, and to report to the membership in September.

5. New Business

a. Purina Award

Peter announced that the Purina Award standings had not been published, but will be announced on the USBCHA web site after all trial results are in.

b. Conduct at Trials

There was a brief discussion on handler conduct at trials, which among other things, is going to be addressed by Terri Warner's judging education committee. Peter noted he is considering developing the topic (with Terri's help) for discussion among the membership at the Finals.

c. BOD Meeting Format

Due to bandwidth issues that reduce the quality of video/web conferencing communications, future Board meeting will be via teleconference only.

6. Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn and the meeting ended.