

WOTCPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2009, 5 PM
CHESLEY CURLING CLUB

The Annual General Meeting for the WOTCPA was called to order by President Jim DeGroot. There were 30 people in attendance including: Len Houghton, Casey VanStuyvenberg, TJ Marks, Travis Inglis, Duane Holm, George Holm, Mark Smailes, Bevin Kinsman, Jesse Kinsman, Jamie Smailes, Christine Campbell, Ben Mighton, Wendy DeGroot, Dan Graham, Kathy Graham, Mikayla Smailes, Antonia DeGroot, Deb Kennedy, Leslie Dalzell, Joanne Ruller, Laura Campbell, Patsy McMahon, Bob Kennedy, Michele Smailes, Jim DeGroot, Bill Campbell, Jim Young and Sharon Wilfing.

Minutes Michele Smailes read the minutes of the AGM 2008. Wendy DeGroot made motion for minutes to be adopted as read and was seconded by Laura Campbell.

Treasurer's Report Patsy McMahon presented the treasurer's report. Jamie Smailes made a motion that the report to be adopted as presented. Seconded by Christine Campbell.

President's Report Jim DeGroot thanked everyone for attending and reported that 2009 was a good year and for the most part, everything ran smoothly. He told the members that the purpose of the AGM is for members to bring their ideas and concerns so that we have the opportunity to deal with any problems and to make improvements where necessary.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

30% Foul Line It was explained that the foul line was moved at Dan Graham's and Brock Reville's however, was not yet moved at George Holm's because the announcer's stand must be moved, requiring some rebuild, however, it is hoped to be done for the 2010 season.

Comparative Financial Statements Mark Smailes suggested that we have the financial statement from the previous year and the current year for comparison. Patsy indicated that she fully intended to have that done in the future.

Nominations and Voting Jim Young stated that the AGM must be announced at least 30 days in advance, and that we change the procedure to include nominations at finals, but vote by ballot at the AGM. He suggested that proxy forms be available at finals so that those who cannot make the AGM have the opportunity to vote.

Finals Location Finding an alternate location for finals was suggested. Some felt that the footing was not good enough which could have resulted in an injury. Duane Holm pointed out that we have the use of the facility at no charge and that we get a good crowd to showcase our sport. The only thing we must supply is sand and shavings. The cost of this is very small compared to renting a facility that could be upwards of \$1000 dollars plus trucking the cattle and stall rental. These additional costs would cut into the payouts considerably. Instead, another option would be to invest a bit more money into extra sand and shavings. Travis Inglis made a motion that we get extra sand to improve the footing. Seconded by Wendy DeGroot.

Alternate Order of Go for 5 Class Suggestion to have 5 class alternate with another class so that the 5 class is not always last. We could do this by having it last at every-other penning and that a schedule be posted on the website as well as at each penning site. Some felt that it was a good idea, but met with some opposition from some of the members, including Bevin Kinsman who said it would be confusing and that it has been that way for a number of years and didn't see why it needs to change. Dan Graham suggested that we keep entries open longer so that the 5 class riders did not need to come at 11 am and not ride until 5 or 6 pm. Deb Kennedy pointed out that if that was done, many riders could have all their teams already made up and would not have any room to allow additional rides for those coming later to do entries. Michele and Patsy explained that a minimum of 4 hours is spent doing entries and payouts and to extend that would not be a welcome change. This will be taken to the executive for further discussion.

New Sponsorship Coordinator needed Laura Campbell thanked everyone who got sponsors for 2009. She announced that she no longer wanted to continue as the sponsorship coordinator. Laura sends form letters to members to be distributed to potential sponsors. She takes pictures etc. to promote team penning to the sponsors and keeps track of sponsors names, amount of sponsorship and which member the sponsor gave the sponsorship to. It was mentioned to everyone that we need a replacement and asked for someone to step forward to help out. Duane Holm stated that a company such as Avenue A in Owen Sound could be used to gather sponsorship and that companies such as those are sometimes able to reach larger companies such as Justin and Wrangler. As no one agreed to help, the executive will try to find a replacement.

Distribution of Added Money Michele Smailes reported that members were unhappy with the way added money was distributed. Some members felt that the added money should be distributed to each class, not just adding it to a select few. This was met by some opposition. Travis Inglis stated that whoever gets the sponsorship should have the say in where the added money goes. For example, someone who is a 5 and gets sponsorship may want to add it to the classes he or she rides in, such as the 10 and open class, where as someone who is rated a one or two and gets sponsorship can add it to wherever they like, for instance the classes they ride in such as the 5 and 7 class. Laura Campbell felt that as a club, we have a responsibility to keep things fair among our riders and that the money should be distributed to each class. The executive will take this discussion into consideration at their next meeting.

No Trash Rule Wendy DeGroot suggested that we attempt to introduce the NO Trash rule. She explained that it teaches new riders to make their cuts carefully and experienced riders to do the same. George Holm argued that the cattle are too tough in the spring and this change would be discouraging. Bob Kennedy stated that only the higher rated riders could do that and newer riders would be frustrated. A couple of youth riders explained that they have had experience with the no trash rule on fresh cattle and it made them slow down and do it right. A vote of 11 to allow the trash and 10 to go with the no trash rule was recorded to get an idea of how everyone felt. This will be taken to the executive for continued discussion.

Rating Committee It was pointed out that the rating committee does not consistently watch all classes or come to all of the penning, allowing for some riders to slip between the cracks. It was explained that it is difficult with a 3 person committee to cover all the bases, however, some thought that a 5 person committee was too many. The members of the rating committee in attendance felt that everything was working well.

Day Passes The day pass was discontinued a number of years ago and should not be reinstated. Wendy reported that this was on advice of the lawyers after the Debbie Eagles lawsuit.

Membership Fee Increase The executive announced that the membership for the upcoming season will be \$40.00 per person and that would include a ticket to the fundraising dance. Details to follow.

Drawpot Riders at Finals The riders in the Drawpot at finals must be Drawpot riders. They cannot be 1's or youth.

5 Rating Abolished? Christine Campbell suggested that we discontinue the 5 rating in riders and put the 5's back to 4's. Members argued that dropping the 5's to 4's would cause problems with the lower number ratings and that the ratings should be left the same.

Operations Manual Adjustment Jim Young requested that our operations manual included the amount for entry in each class, the way the money is divided to cattle fee, the order of go for each penning and a breakdown of payouts.

Cattle failing to perform A question was raised about cattle getting tired and stopping. Bill Campbell answered that a calf not moving is luck of the draw. Ben Mighton suggested that we consider having one head of cattle per team, meaning that we would need upwards of 180 head for a regular penning. The cattle contractors contested that it is not feasible to do so and that they could not afford more cattle. Some suggested a ride limit be imposed, that we cut back time where ever possible and that water to the cattle would be mandatory.

Debbie Eagles' Lawsuit There was a brief discussion about Debbie Eagles' lawsuit against the WOTCPA. Wendy reported that Debbie Eagles had a new lawyer who requested documentation and that all documentation regarding the matter was sent to the insurance company.

Compilation of Members Names and Phone #'s Members requested that we supply names and phone numbers of all riders. The legality of a list such as that was discussed and suggested that perhaps we review our waiver to include that names and numbers be made available to other penners. This would be discussed at the executive level.

Buckles A member suggested that perhaps the winner of the high point buckle not be eligible to receive the day buckle as well. Dan Graham suggested that the day buckle should be awarded to each team member not just one person.

Tie breakers Members were in favour of a 3 head tie breaker, not just on one head. Travis Inglis made a motion that we change that rule. Bob Kennedy seconded the motion. All in favour and carried.

Bob Kennedy made a motion that we adjourn.