



January 28, 2024

## 2024 Manitoba Hunter Jumper Association Annual General Meeting

**4:02 PM**

1. Call to order and welcome – Dr. Billy Wiltshire (President)
2. Attendance register

Present (board members): Billy Wiltshire (President), Jennifer Perron (First Vice-President), Leslie Bachynski (Second Vice-President), Sean Adams (Secretary), Nathalie Schipper-Nijburg (Treasurer), Nicole Gorman, Tristan Caswell, Lauren Perry, Clare Harris, Carol Lavallee, Hugh Crawley (via Zoom)

Regrets (board members): Andrew Curry (Immediate Past President), Margaret Campbell, Nicole Boonstra

Present (membership): Cassandra Page, Danae Martin, Eric Martin, Lydia , Katie Webb, Carol Good, Dominic Good, Tara McKinnon, Carole Chamillard, Hermann Schweizer, Michelle Johnson, Dawn Lampe, Becky Adams (proxy given to Dawn Lampe), Paris Janz, Chris Bell, Donna Lowery, Madison Dueck, Claire Mackley, Susan Auch

3. Quorum:

The president confirmed that a quorum of members was present, and the meeting was validly constituted to conduct business.

4. Additions to the agenda

Item 11.1 was added to the agenda. Corrections were made to Items 10.1 and 10.4 to indicate that Nicole Boonstra has agreed to continue to serve in her position on the board, and Margaret Campbell has stepped down from her seat.

5. Approval of minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Geri Sweet moved to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting as distributed, seconded by Lauren Perry. The motion was adopted.

## 6. Matters arising

### 6.1 Live text updates at shows – Lauren Perry

Text updates were implemented for 2023 using WhatsApp. This will be continued for the 2024 show season.

### 6.2 Provincial competition format – Jennifer Perron

Details given in the MHC Liaison report.

### 6.3 Prairie Crocus circuit – Tristan Caswell

Details given in the Athlete Development report and Item 6.4 below.

### 6.4 Grassroots schooling ring – Tristan Caswell

Details given in the Athlete Development report. A third ring will be run at the rated Bird's Hill Park shows for heights from crossrails up to 2'. Open schooling blocks will be offered until 12:00 at Victoria Day, Summer Smiles and Fall Harvest, then judged classes using provincially accredited officials will be run. A separate membership will be offered at a lower rate for the judged classes to remove barriers to participation. There will be an opportunity to upgrade to a full MHJA membership throughout the season.

### 6.5 Heart of the Continent review – Clare Harris

Details given in the Show Committee report.

### 6.6 Equipment purchases

The hunter boxes have been built and stored for this show season. The portable open water jump was sponsored and purchased; it is available for use during the 2024 show season.

## 7. Annual reports

### 7.1 President's report

Billy Wiltshire read the President's report to the membership (see Appendix 1).

### 7.2 Treasurer's report and financial statements

Nathalie Schipper-Nijburg read the Treasurer's report to the membership (see Appendix 2). Danae Martin suggested sending out the chair reports prior to the AGM in future years. The board will take this under consideration.

### 7.3 Show Committee report

Clare Harris read the Show Committee report to the membership (see Appendix 3). Danae Martin asked if there are plans to run EC-rated classes. Lauren and Clare said there is potential for the junior equitation classes, a 3' hunter division and a 3'6" hunter division to be EC-rated – nothing is guaranteed, but it is under consideration. Show Grounds Live will be the new show management platform used for MHJA this year, excluding the live ring updates feature. General discussion took place regarding the relative merits of running EC-rated shows in Manitoba, versus running shows as provincially rated.

#### 7.4 Sponsorship report

Jennifer Perron read the Sponsorship report to the membership on behalf of Nicole Boonstra (see Appendix 4). Hermann Schweizer suggested the use of the rolltops built with grant money be carefully considered, given that they are fragile. This will be passed onto Hugh Crawley in his capacity as Equipment Chair. Some hunter boxes will be allocated to the Bird's Hill Park facility. Geri Sweet mentioned there are plans to upgrade the sound system at Bird's Hill Park, thanks to a successful grant application by Manitoba Horse Council.

#### 7.5 Membership, Barns and Coaches report

Lauren Perry read the Membership report to the membership (see Appendix 5). Erin Martin raised the idea of graduated membership fees for C, B and A Junior riders. Lauren will consider this for next year.

#### 7.6 Equipment reports

Sean Adams read the Equipment report to the membership on behalf of Hugh Crawley (see Appendix 6).

#### 7.7 Volunteers report

Sean Adams read the Volunteer report to the membership on behalf of Hugh Crawley (see Appendix 7). For anyone who has not received a volunteer deposit refund for 2023, please contact Hugh at [hugh.david.pax@gmail.com](mailto:hugh.david.pax@gmail.com).

#### 7.8 Communications and Website report

Nicole Gorman read the Communications and Website report to the membership (see Appendix 8).

#### 7.9 Hospitality report

Carol Lavallee read the Hospitality report to the membership (see Appendix 9). Danae Martin asked if a bar can be available at the Summer Smiles horse show. Carol will investigate the possibility. Geri Sweet explained that any bar at Bird's Hill Park needs to be run in an "enclosed area", with the person in charge having taken a course run by Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries.

#### 7.10 Athlete Development

Tristan Caswell read the Athlete Development report to the membership (see Appendix 10).

7.11 EC Liaison report

Jennifer Perron read the EC Liaison report to the membership (see Appendix 11).

7.12 MHC Liaison report

Jennifer Perron read the MHC Liaison report to the membership (see Appendix 11).

7.13 Red River Ex Liaison report

Sean Adams read the Red River Ex Liaison report to the membership on behalf of Andrew Curry (see Appendix 12). Discussion ensued about ongoing improvements to the footing being made at the Red River Ex site.

7.14 Approval of all reports

Eric Martin moved that the annual reports be accepted as read, seconded by Geri Sweet. The motion was adopted.

8. Strategic planning results to date and MHJA core values reveal – Sean Adams

Sean Adams presented the results of MHJA's strategic planning initiative to date to the membership (see Appendix 13). Danae Martin asked if the survey and resulting plan addressed aspects of the hunter jumper sport other than running horse shows. Sean replied that the membership indicated interest in aspects of hunter jumper sport other than showing (e.g. clinics and other events), and the plan does reflect this.

9. Presentation, discussion, and approval of the proposed budget for 2024 – Nathalie Schipper-Nijburg

Nathalie presented the proposed 2024 budget to the membership (available upon request). The budget has already been debated and approved by the MHJA board.

Leslie Bachynski moved to approve the proposed budget for 2024, seconded by Jennifer Perron. The motion was adopted.

10. Election of Board members

10.1 Notification of Board members with a one-year term remaining on the Board who have agreed to continue to serve:

Dr. William (Billy) Wiltshire, Jennifer Perron, Carol Lavallee, Leslie Bachynski, Sean Adams, Nicole Gorman, Lauren Perry, Tristan Caswell, Nicole Boonstra

10.2 Board members with their two-year terms expiring who are eligible and standing for re-election:

Hugh Crawley, Nathalie Schipper-Nijburg

Leslie Bachynski nominated both of the above board members for re-election, seconded by Hermann Schweizer. Both above listed board members were re-elected by acclamation.

10.3 Co-opted Board members standing for election:

Clare Harris

Lauren Perry nominated Clare Harris to the board, seconded by Carol Lavallee. Clare Harris accepted the nomination. Clare was elected to the board by acclamation.

10.4 Board members who have stepped down from their position:

Hayley Bembridge, Christine Budzak, Cate Chant, Erin Turski, Margaret Campbell

10.5 Nominations for additional Board members

Lana Ochman has been nominated to the board.

Nominator: Lauren Perry; Seconder: Clare Harris – Lana accepted the nomination and indicated interest in the Volunteers portfolio

10.6 First call for further nominations from the floor (proposer and seconder required)

Susan Auch was nominated to the board.

Nominator: Erin Martin; Seconder: Geri Sweet – Susan Auch accepted the nomination

10.7 Second, third and final call for nominations from the floor

No further nominations put forward.

10.8 Voting

With no Board positions contested, a vote was not required to be held.

10.9 Election results

**With no seats on the Board of MHJA contested, the Board of MHJA for 2024 was elected by acclamation.**

11. New matters

11.1 Red River Ex plans – Hermann Schweizer

Red River Exhibition membership has dwindled significantly in recent years. Hermann encouraged all MHJA members to also become members of the Red River Ex – for a \$10 membership fee, each RREx member can receive in the neighbourhood of \$100 worth of the benefits.

To start helping the Red River Ex run as a greener, more environmentally responsible facility, Herman is spearheading a new recycling initiative. There will be one container set aside just for plastic shavings bags, and another to collect binder twine. More recycling containers for beverage containers will also be put out by the stalls. Geri Sweet suggested having another container for aluminum cans to be picked up by Kinsman Winnipeg. Jennifer Perron stated that the same program should be introduced at Bird's Hill Park as well to develop the habit during all MHJA shows.

12. Motion to adjourn – **6:44 PM**

Next AGM: January 2025 (exact date TBA). Next board meeting: February 24 @ 7:30 PM Red River Ex boardroom

“Sean Adams, Secretary”

## **Appendix 1 – President’s Report**

### **MHJA AGM January 2024 – President’s Report**

Good afternoon,

It is with much pleasure and satisfaction that we can look back at our MHJA show season of 2023 and reflect on our many successes, ranging from our schooling to our EC sanctioned show events, and not to forget our popular and enjoyable social events at our shows, in particular at Heart of the Continent and our Year End Awards Banquet at the ever - popular Breezy Bend venue.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work of our many role players, who put in extraordinary effort and enthusiasm to continue making our show season such an enormous success, while keeping costs down, but never compromising the quality of our events.

In particular, I would like to recognize our hard-working board members, who often go unrecognized and unappreciated, for all the hours of work they put in behind the scenes. BOARD MEMBERS OF 2013, PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED!!

The chairs of our various portfolios have some exciting news to share during their upcoming reports – I don’t want to steal their thunder and will allow them to share their committee reports and fruits of their hard work with you during their presentations.

Thank you also to all our members, parents, supporters, significant others, volunteers, sponsors, and everyone else both seen and unseen who are part of our wonderful MHJA organization, including of course the most important of them all – OUR EQUINE PARTNERS!

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted.

*Billy Wiltshire*

Dr Billy Wiltshire: President MHJA  
28 January 2024.

## **Appendix 2 – Treasurer’s Report**

2023 was a good fiscal year for MHJA we made a profit of \$14,488.39. This was expected a \$ 1,970.00 deficit as approved at the 2023 AGM. This profit is a variety of many things, but a couple of larger differences can be explained as follow:

### Income:

- More membership/volunteer deposit then budgeted \$ 12,000.00
- More horse show income (horse show income \$35,100.00 - prize money \$ 23,700.00) \$11,400.00
- More grant money \$ 25,000.00
- Less sponsorship money and fundraiser \$ 11,900.00

Total additional income \$36,500.00

### Expenses:

- Purchased grant equipment \$ 28,700.00
- Equipment, forming an equipment and maintenance reserve \$ 6,900.00
- Less Horse show expense due to 1 less show (Victoria Day) \$ 14,100.00

Total additional expenses \$ 21,500.00

**Extra profit 2023 \$15,000.00**

### Budget 2024:

For 2024 the club intends to run on the basis of a nearly break-even budget as we are expecting a small deficit of \$1,825.00.

### Bank account:

Our current bank balance: \$ 93,640.95 (Monday January 22 2024) (please keep in mind that we have a equipment reserve of \$23,000.00 which would impact our bank balance with this amount)

Submitted by Nathalie Schipper-Nijburg  
Treasurer



## **Appendix 3 – Show Committee Report**

We have reinstated reciprocity with BLHPSI in the hopes of increasing numbers at our shows. Our members will not require BLHPSI membership at 3 Spring Indoor Schooling Shows, and Wheat City. Wheat City points will now count towards our year end awards.

We have reduced the office and medic fees by \$10 per horse for members of MHJA at our 4 EC shows.

There will be a \$500 year-end prize to the MHJA member with the highest points in the Pan Am Medal Series.

We have changed our show program in the office thanks to research done by Lauren and Tristan.

There will be a \$100 non-refundable deposit required to enter our shows, and the first show will require the waiver, proof of vaccines, Coggins, and membership numbers to be accepted.

We have added A, B, C Equitation instead of Jr. Equitation. A Fault and out Team Relay will replace the Hunter Extravaganza at Beach. A third hunter class per division, over fences, will be added at Heart. Smiles and Fall Harvest will now offer prize money in all classes over fences.

There will be three schooling shows at BHP: Victoria Day - May 17-19, Summer out of the City - August 16-18, and Jump into Fall- September 27-29.

Looking forward to a busy show season in 2024!

Submitted by Clare Harris

## **Appendix 4 – Sponsorship Report**

In October 2023, I moved into the Sponsorship Chair position working with new committee members: Jennifer Peron.

I am pleased to report that MHJA received a total of \$74,975.42 in funding support from sponsorship and grants.

In 2023 a total of \$40,174 was provided to support MHJA through sponsorship; made up of \$25,925 in cash and \$14,249 of gifts in kind. In addition, many members, sponsors, barns, and community businesses donated silent auction prizes to support the annual awards banquet.

There were 37 sponsors in 2023. Sponsorship dollars were largely allocated to prize money, clinics and offering competitor meals. In-kind support reduced the cost of services rendered to MHJA and included prize gifts for sponsored classes and/or divisions.

The 2024 Sponsorship Brochure was finalized in October and made available at the annual awards banquet. Sponsorship information has been circulated by e-mail to existing sponsors, over 100 cold calls, the MHJA website and circulated via MHJA member e-mail communication.

Following the Awards banquet sponsors received notes of thanks. All 2023 framed sponsorship photos were delivered to eligible sponsors.

The Sponsorship Committee's goal for 2024 is to enhance communication and sponsor recognition.

In addition to sponsorship, a total of \$34,876.42 was awarded to MHJA through grants. Grants were received from the Government of Canada under the Community Services Recovery Fund in the amount of \$11,059.70 to support the purchase of new timing equipment, audio speaker system and commercial grade walkie talkies. A second grant from the Government of Manitoba under the Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund was received in the amount of \$23,816.72 to complete the purchase of the timing equipment, audio speaker system and purchase new hunter ring jumps and fill.

The support of our sponsors is vitally important to the success of our show seasons and competitors experience. MHJA is blessed to have long standing supportive sponsors and I look forward to working with each of them in the next fiscal year. If members wish to sponsor or know of an individual or company who would like to support MHJA please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Nicole Boonstra  
Sponsorship Chair

## **Appendix 5 – Membership, Barns and Coaches Report**

In 2023 I joined the Board, taking over both the Membership portfolio and the Barns and Coaches portfolio.

For the 2023 season MHJA had 183 members. Of those, 9 were owner/stable membership holders, 16 were family memberships (39 members in total), 2 were associate members, and we had 43 junior members and 90 Senior Members. I'd like to thank all our members, both new and returning for supporting MHJA and participating in our horse shows.

To provide on-going and timely communication about shows and events, regular emails were sent out to the Barns and Coaches with MHJA. This communication seemed to be well received and it will continue in 2024. If you have not received any communication from me, please email me so I can add you to my distribution list.

For the 2024 season we have moved to an automated memberships renewal platform, which should make renewals easy and provide members with a membership card, that they can save digitally or print. If you have issues, please contact me and I can help with the renewal process.

This year we are pleased to be engaging in reciprocity agreements with BLHPSI, MHT and Manitoba Pony Club. Details are provided on the website.

2024 looks to be another great year for MHJA. I look forward to again being the membership and Barns and Coaches Chair for the 2024 season.

Submitted by Lauren Perry  
[mhja.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mhja.membership@gmail.com)

## Appendix 6 – Equipment Report

Mid-year in 2023, I became more involved with the equipment portfolio, which I will continue in 2024. The MHJA is currently building a quantity of hunter materials to upgrade our rings and move towards having two set of equipment (one for each venue). Boxes and gates have been completed to date. Poles and standards will be constructed going forward. These materials are being built with a focus on basic materials that can be used in various configurations around feature and sponsor fences.



Submitted by Hugh Crawley

## **Appendix 7 – Volunteers Report**

2023 was my first (and only) year as volunteer chair. Volunteers were run using a similar approach as in prior years; however, changes are anticipated in 2024 including removing the requirement for a deposit to be paid in advance. The MHJA board is also continuing to look at ways to balance the use of volunteer hours and paid positions. In 2024 Lana Ochman has agreed, subject to AGM approval, to take over the Volunteer role.

Submitted by Hugh Crawley

## **Appendix 8 – Communications and Website Report**

The website was maintained with up-to-date information regarding EC and upcoming events held by MHJA and by MHC. All prize lists were uploaded once available. Plans for 2024 are to do the same and simplify a few of the current pages to make them more user friendly.

I took over communications part way through the 2023 season. My main goal was to have more consistent information and updates for the membership in a timely manner. For 2024, I plan to keep the social media and emails as active as possible.

Nicole Gorman

Website/Communications chair

## **Appendix 9 – Hospitality Report**

The hospitality committee has a purpose to work together with the sponsorship and show committees to bring together sponsors, exhibitors, and officials in various functions to support the horse show experience.

### **Our tasks for the 2023 season were:**

The competitors' dinners at both Beach and Heart  
Riders meeting at Heart  
The bar at both Beach and Heart  
Helping to coordinate sponsors day at Heart  
Accommodations of out-of-town officials  
Organization of prizes and presentations at all shows  
Awards banquet at Breezy Bend Country Club

### **Our highlights were:**

Having successful events that helped to foster our horse show community.  
Coming in under budget for the awards dinner allowing us to offset the cost of the attending sponsors.

Here's looking forward to a great 2024 season!

Submitted by Carol Lavallee

## Appendix 10 – Athlete Development Report

Prairie Crocus MHJA Circuit:

A circuit to develop Manitoba's Grassroots Riders, with opportunities for young horse early development miles.

- Victoria Day Schooling Show May 17-19
- Summer out of the City August 16-18
- Jump into Fall Sept 27-29

In addition, we will run a third Grassroots ring with schooling opportunities at:

- Summer Smiles June 31-2
- Fall Harvest Sept 13-15

Year-end Hi-Points awards will be awarded at the MHJA Awards night to **MHJA Members (Regular or Prairie Crocus)** for the following:

X-rail Junior, X-rail Senior, 2ft Junior, 2ft Senior, 2'3" Junior, 2'3" Senior

*This will replace the Beginner Hunter year-end awards.*

Prairie Crocus Membership will be \$25.00 per year.

- This is an alternative to a full a membership for riders wishing to participate in this new Prairie Crocus Circuit.
- A *Prairie Crocus Membership* entitles members to collect points towards the Prairie Crocus year end Hi-Point Awards.
- Memberships can be purchased online.
- Members may upgrade to a full MHJA membership at any time.
- Prairie Crocus Members are encouraged to volunteer, but it is not required currently.

Athlete Development Report

- In alignment with MHJA's core values, the Athlete Development Committee plans to host 3-4 clinics to assist with Grassroots Riders' development in 2024.
- ~ Hunter Development Clinic with Christine Reupke June 29-30, 2024
- ~ Jumper Development Clinic with T.B.D.
- ~ Intro to Showing Classroom Clinic date T.B.D.
- ~ Intro to Jumping Grassroots Clinic date T.B.D.

Suggestions for clinicians are always appreciated. Please email one of the committee members with your suggestions.

Submitted by Tristan Caswell



## **Appendix 11 – EC and MHC Liaison Report**

Manitoba Horse Council is the not-for-profit organization representing clubs and individual members involved in equine activities in Manitoba.

As MHJA's liaison to MHC, I attend the Council of Clubs meetings to hear what is happening within MHC and its benefits/ impact on our club and at the same time an opportunity to share with MHC and member clubs the activities of MHJA, our challenges, celebrations etc. I also attend the Club rep meetings, which happen throughout the year. The purpose of these meetings is to engage and collaborate with other clubs to reduce costs for all of us by sharing services where possible, brainstorming ideas that can grow our clubs and taking advantage of economies of scale whenever possible.

At the last meeting of the Council of Clubs, MHC shared their 3-year Strategic Plan focusing on growing the membership and programs MHC provides and preserving their legacy asset – the Equestrian Facility at Birds Hill Park. Other highlights include MHC has partnered with Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Board for additional grant funds for Clubs to access for officials and coaching training. MHJA will be submitting a grant, as there is a shortage of officials in our province for our shows. Other highlights include Governance Essentials (Board training), Rural Development Programs, PSO sponsorship available for participants 18+.

MHC is also taking the lead in developing and implementing the Prairie Crocus Series, which will be focusing on creating a safe and standardized environment for grass roots level participants to enter the competitive environment and have a positive competition experience. MHJA will be offering classes within the Prairie Crocus Series at Birds Hill venue this coming show season. The Show Committee is actively planning for these classes to be integrated with the Summer Smiles, Fall Harvest, and schooling shows. Tristan is working closely with MHC and providing leadership from MHJA in the development of the Prairie Crocus Series. This is an exciting initiative for our grass root members.

MHJA is working closely with MHC Facility committee looking at different options for the storage of MHJA's jumps at Birds Hill Park. As our jump inventory grows, additional storage is required for the jumps to protect them from the weather, as well as potentially a place to paint, fix and maintain the jumps. We are also looking at acquiring additional flat beds for easy movement of the jumps to and from the jumper and hunter rings. Porta Potties have also been a concern, and we have been able to work with MHC in providing a porta potty at all our shows by the hunter ring.

MHC is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024 – so keep checking MHC website for upcoming events and celebrations.

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Perron

## **Appendix 12 – Red River Ex Liaison Report**

The Red River Exhibition remains committed to the horse industry and supporting the Manitoba Hunter Jumper Association. 2023 saw the first full season of standard bred racing and dates for the 2024 season will not coincide with horse shows that MHJA runs. Hermann Schweizer (current RREx board member) is in talks with RREX about current maintenance needed on the show grounds and expansion of warmup ring to separate hunter and jumper warmup space. A more capable water truck is budgeted to be added for the 2024 season.

Submitted by Andrew Curry

## **Appendix 13 – Strategic Planning Results to Date**

In April of this past year, the MHJA board held its first strategic planning meeting. The goal was to determine our club's strengths that set us apart from other horse show organizations, clearly define our core values as an organization, and establish a plan to address current and future foreseen challenges to our healthy operation.

Prior to the meeting, a membership survey was sent out to collect data regarding MHJA's perceived strengths and weaknesses. Seventy-five responses were received, representing individuals from every polled group within MHJA's community (riders, coaches, officials, sponsors, independent contractors and so forth). These responses were central to the discussions that took place during the strategic planning.

Once all responses were sorted into related categories, five broad, recurring strengths emerged that people currently identify with MHJA:

- Running quality EC-rated shows
- Affordability of MHJA shows
- Support for grassroots riders
- Two beautiful legacy Pan Am show venues
- A dedicated, supportive show community.

After further discussion, we distilled these strengths into three central, core values of MHJA:

### **Quality, Community, Inclusivity**

These values will be the core "pillars" that will inform all further decisions guiding us forward as a club.

Not surprisingly, given the wide spread of our membership, there was definite overlap when we began looking at our current weaknesses and future challenges. Some areas of strength identified by certain demographics were seen as weaknesses by others, and vice versa. Through several small and large group discussion sessions, several themes emerged:

- Ageing infrastructure and facilities needing upgrades (especially footing)
- Reliance on volunteers, who need a more flexible system of supports
- Difficulty retaining, increasing and diversifying our sponsorship pool
- A community culture that is narrow and difficult to navigate for new members

Several goals and plans to address these challenges were outlined and initial steps towards meeting them have already begun. MHJA's strategic plan is an evolving framework that will be continuously revisited and refined, especially to ensure it is aligned with Manitoba Horse Council's newly released strategic plan. Further updates will be shared with the membership as progress is made.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sean Adams, Secretary