Board Members Present: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Katie Benson, Richard Cram, David Distler, Joseph Dotoli, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson, Brooke Kemper, Anne Kursinski, Britt McCormick, Tobey McWilliams, Betty Oare, Mike Rosser, Robin Rost Brown, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson, James Urban

Board Members Not Present: Jimmy Torano, Caroline Weeden, Sissy Wickes

Staff Present: Kevin Price, Mary Hope Kramer, Lisa Moss, Marianne Kutner, Leigh Anne Claywell

I. Welcome
Mary Babick welcomed the Board and the meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. ET.

II. Roll Call
Roll call was conducted and it was established that there was a quorum present.

III. Approval of Agenda
David Distler made a motion to adopt the agenda. Betty Oare seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
Mr. Distler made a motion to put the December 9-12, 2019 meeting minutes on the floor for discussion and vote. Charlotte Skinner-Robson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. Hearing no discussion, the meeting minutes for December 9-12, 2019 were unanimously approved, with one abstention noted.

V. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
The Executive Committee meeting minutes for October 7, November 4, and November 6 were presented as informational content.

VI. Program/Committee Proposals
Ms. Oare made a motion to place all program/committee specifications and proposals on the floor for discussion and vote. Rick Cram seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- WCHR Awards at Palm Beach Spectacular
  The Board reviewed the materials provided in the meeting packet. Cheryl Rubenstein briefly outlined the Task Force and Awards Committee recommendations for the awards:
  
  - Kavar Kerr Recipient: Jennifer Smith
  - Peter Wetherill Cup: Lafitte De Muze, owned by Cheryl Olsten, ridden by Amanda Steege
Hearing no discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the WCHR Awards at the Palm Beach Spectacular, as presented.

- **2021 National Hunter Derby Regional Championships Proposal**
  Ms. Babick noted that Exhibit B in the proposal (having a standalone license) was not allowed under the rules, and this event would also not qualify as a special competition. Concern was expressed about the cost of the program, as this proposal would require a substantial amount of funding, and the fact that the proposal does not fully account for the costs of all staff time involved (design costs, accounting department costs, etc.). The general consensus was that the Board liked the concept of having this program, but that it would not be fiscally responsible to add a program that was not budget neutral. The idea of using a portion of the USHJA budget surplus as a source of funding was suggested.

  The Board also was concerned with the proposal’s concept of assigning the Regional Championships to shows, rather than having an open application process. It was noted that the Board had a standing policy of not allowing this sort of assignment, and the proposal would need to be changed to allow for an open application process. Additional concern was expressed at the wording “contact and contract approved show managers about hosting a championship.” The consensus was that the word “approved” should be removed.

  Conversation turned to the prize money that the proposal asked USHJA to provide. The suggestion was made that the prize money should not come from USHJA, and that show managers should provide the $10,000. Consensus was that meeting this expense would not deter a show interested in hosting the championships, and it would bring the total expense of the program down. The idea of raising the program fee from $25 to $35 was also suggested.

  The Board decided that this proposal should be postponed for further revision until the March Board meeting. Suggested revisions included:
  - Removing the sentence regarding USHJA providing prize money
  - Changing to an open application process for awarding the Regional Championships
  - Removing the word “approved” in reference to contacting show managers about hosting a championship
  - Determining and adding all staff costs involved (design, finance, etc.)
  - Finding cost savings to make this program budget neutral (potentially raising the fee or other solutions)

  Mr. Cram made a motion to postpone the proposal for further revisions, as outlined above, until the March Board meeting. Joe Dotoli seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to postpone the 2021 National Hunter Derby Regional Championships Proposal for further revisions, as outlined above, to be presented again at the March Board of Directors meeting.

- **2021 International Hunter Derby Regional Championships Proposal**
  Ms. Babick noted that this proposal needed to be postponed because mandatory enrollment was not included in the proposal in error, and it needed to go back to the Task Force for that revision. It was noted there was also an error in the regions listing, and that Northwest should consist of Zones 2, 12, and British Columbia (not 8); instead, Zone 8 should appear under either South or Central. It was noted that this error might also appear in the National Hunter Derby Regional Championships Proposal’s region list, and that it should be checked and corrected if duplicated.

  Ms. Oare made a motion to postpone the 2021 International Hunter Derby Regional Championships Proposal for revisions, including adding content on mandatory enrollment and
checking the list of regions for accuracy. Dianne Johnson seconded, and the motion to postpone was unanimously approved.

- **2021 Children’s and Adult Amateur Hunter Championship Specifications**
  Ms. Babick noted that there was a surge of interest in these Championships as evidenced by recent survey results, but that it was a very staff intensive program and that it was not budget neutral. Tobey McWilliams spoke about the edits made to the proposal after discussion at the Annual Meeting, agreeing that the budget did need further work. She noted that having the Championships hosted at the same show as the ZJTC might provide some savings related to on-site staff costs, as a staff member would already be present, but later discussion indicated that this would not be the case since multiple staff would be needed to handle both events if held jointly. It was also pointed out that it would not be required for a show to host both the ZJTC and the Children’s and Adult Amateur Hunter Championships.

  There was much discussion about the addition of Children’s Hunter Ponies to the event, and the hope that this would increase attendance and income. A question was asked as to whether it would be more complicated having the Children’s Hunter Ponies rather than the 2’6” Low Children’s and Adult Hunter section, and whether the Ponies really would have the turnout. Ms. Babick pointed out that while analyzing data for a project she found that Low Children’s and Adult tended to have a much stronger turnout, particularly moving towards the west, as compared to Children’s Hunter Ponies. The experiences of various Board members supported this conclusion.

  The suggestion was made that data be analyzed to ascertain how many unique exhibitors were in the Children’s Hunter Ponies and the Low Children’s and Adult Hunters, so the best way for the program to move forward could be determined. Ms. McWilliams pointed out that having the Low Children’s and Adult rather than Children’s Hunter Ponies might result in show managers having to run an additional ring, which had been mentioned as a concern at the Annual Meeting. She indicated that she would collect and review relevant data and bring the proposal back in March for consideration.

  Mr. Dotoli made a motion to postpone the 2021 Children’s and Adult Amateur Hunter Championship Specifications until the March meeting, to allow for further review. Ms. Johnson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to postpone the 2021 Children’s and Adult Amateur Hunter Championship Specifications.

- **2021 Young Jumper Championship Proposal**
  It was noted that the USEF Jumping Sport Committee had reviewed a partial proposal in July and approved in concept. It was pointed out that this program was self-funding through exhibitor enrollment fees, and that it would still be revenue neutral even if turnout was lower than the initial target. It was also noted that the breed registries had shown interest in supporting this program.

  At the conclusion of discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2021 Young Jumper Championship Proposal, as presented.

VII. **Rule Change Proposals**

Ms. McWilliams made a motion to place all rule change proposals on the floor for discussion and vote. Ms. Johnson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- **GR 312.6 – Tracking #133-19 – Determining Ratings**
  It was noted that this rule change proposal defined minimum and maximum classes at various levels, and stated that no more than two one-day competitions can be held consecutively.
Hearing no discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve GR312.6 – Tracking #133-19, as presented.

Tracking #015-19, Tracking #142-19, and Tracking #143-19
Ms. Babick noted that she studied Green Hunter Incentive data related to tracking #015-19, Tracking #143-19, and Tracking #149-19, to determine whether high dollar GHI stake classes and/or the GHI Championship were skewing HOTY results. She noted that from her analysis it was more likely that the Championship was skewing HOTY results, rather than the stake classes.

- **HU 169 – Tracking #015-19 – Green Hunter Incentive**
  Ms. Babick noted that this was a USHJA rule, that it did not relate to the 5 time filter, and that it would need approval to remain in compliance with the existing Presidential Modification.

  At the conclusion of discussion, the Board voted to approve HU 169 – Tracking #015-19, with one vote of disapproval noted.

- **GR 1131 – Tracking #142-19 – Green Hunter Incentive**
  It was noted that this was the rule related to the 5 time filter. Consensus was that this filter was not warranted based on the data, and it was determined that the proponent would be contacted and asked to withdraw it.

  At the conclusion of discussion, the Board voted unanimously to disapprove GR 1131 – Tracking #142-19.

- **HU 169 – Tracking #143-19 – Green Hunter Incentive**
  It was noted that revisions suggested by the proponent were included in USHJA’s version of the rule change proposal, and it was hoped that Tracking #143-19 would be withdrawn.

  At the conclusion of discussion, the Board voted unanimously to disapprove HU 169 – Tracking #143-19.

- **HU 118 – Tracking #165-19 – General (Jogging)**
  Ms. Babick noted that a data analysis had also been completed for this rule to determine how many times the Green Hunter sections had been combined. The data indicated that the sections had been combined about 23 percent of the time. The concern had been as to the 3’0” and/or 3’3” horses not having to jog if the sections were combined, and the 3’6” and 3’9” having to jog if combined. She offered five different suggestions including jogging a circle at the beginning or end of a course, eliminating jogging, returning to a system that only allows 3’0” and 3’3” to be combined with each other and to eliminate jogging from those sections, instituting proposed language which would allow only 3’6” and 3’9” horses to jog in sections that include any 3’0” or 3’3” horses, or to disapprove this rule and add it to the 2020 Town Hall topics. After a great deal of discussion, it was determined that this rule should be disapproved and re-considered next year, after further study and discussion in Town Hall meetings.

  The Board voted to disapprove HU 118 – Tracking #165-19, with one vote recorded in favor of approval.

- **HJ 127 – Tracking #156-19 – Measurement**
  It was noted that if approved this rule would return the measurement age to 6, and that it would be required that the measurements for the 5 year old and 6 year old cards would be taken by two different stewards. It was further clarified that if the same steward who completed the 5 year old
card measurement was at subsequent consecutive shows, a temporary card would be issued each time until a different steward could complete the official 6 year old card measurement at a future date.

At the conclusion of discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve HJ 127 – Tracking #156-19, as presented.

VIII. Consideration of Special Competition Request
Ms. Johnson made a motion to put the Special Competition Request for the 2020 West Coast Amateur Owner Hunter Championships on the floor for discussion and vote. Ms. Rost Brown seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Babick informed the Board that this item had been tabled in the Executive Committee meeting the week prior in favor of a full Board review. She provided some background on the request, indicating that discussions with USEF and Sonoma had been ongoing. She highlighted a relevant rule, HU 166, which states that “the USHJA, at its discretion, may choose to hold a National or East and West Championship for Amateur Owner Hunters.” The rules also allow for Zones to group together to host the event, though this suggestion did not find traction with the requesting parties, and instead a special competition request was submitted. The East and West Championship would not be possible as required under the rule, since USEF had asked for this to be placed with Junior Hunter Finals, and the host show in the East would not be able to accommodate with their schedule. Discussion continued and ultimately the consensus was that this should not be approved as a Category IV Special Competition, which by definition would require there to be no existing applicable rules, since that is not the case in this instance.

The Board voted to disapprove the special competition request for the 2020 West Coast Amateur Owner Hunter Championships, with one abstention noted.

IX. Renaming of Hunterdon Cup
Ms. Oare made a motion to put the Renaming of the Hunterdon Cup on the floor for discussion and vote. Mr. Urban seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Hearing no discussion, Ms. Rost Brown made a motion to approve the Gladstone Cup as the new name for the Hunterdon Cup. Ms. Johnson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Gladstone Cup as the new name of the Hunterdon Cup.

X. Old Business
A question was asked about the National Championships as to the amount of revenue or loss. Lisa Moss replied that the calculations were not yet complete, but that there would be a net loss and the financials would be presented at the next Board meeting.

XI. New Business
None

XII. Adjourn
There being no further business, the January 2020 meeting of the USHJA Board of Directors was adjourned January 13, 2020 at 8:51 p.m. ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Johnson, Secretary