



**EASTERN SKI JUMPING & NORDIC COMBINED FOUNDATION, INC.**



## **ESJNC SPRING MEETING MINUTES**

Sunday, April 19, 2015

10:05 AM

Olympic Training Center

Lake Placid, NY

Taylor Hoffman – Chairman-Present  
Martina Lussi, Treasurer – NYSEF-Present  
Heidi Nichols-Hanover-Absent  
Tim Norris – AOC Coach-Absent  
Jay Daniels - AOC Coach-Present  
Jon Farnham – LOC Coach-Absent  
Jack Phelps - Judge & SWSA Representative-Absent  
Nicholas Fairall – Athlete Representative-Absent  
Lisa Kling – Gunstock-Absent

Ken Barker, Vice-Chairman-SWSA-Judge-Present  
Kathleen Doyle, Secretary–AOC-Present  
Walter Malmquist-Absent Resigned  
Kate McGinn – Harris Hill-Absent  
Rex Bell – USASJ – Harris Hill-Resigned  
Mark Breen – SWSA-Absent  
Evan Bliss – Eastern Coach-Present  
Jay Rand – Judge-Absent  
Brattleboro – Todd Einig

**Guests:** Rebecca Dayton-ORDA; **Jamie Tuttle**

Taylor Hoffman, Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

**Roll Call** – Taylor Hoffman, Chairman, Ken Barker, Vice-Chairman-SWSA; Evan Bliss, LP; Todd Einig, Brattleboro; Martina Lussi, Treasurer; Kathleen Doyle, Secretary

### **Previous Meeting Minutes**

Members reviewed previous meeting minutes from November 2, 2014. **Motion made by Jay Daniels to accept the minutes with no changes. Ken Barker seconded that motion. All voted in favor, motion passed.**

**Treasurers Report** – Martina Lussi – Stated not a lot of activity to report. Two checks written, one for the Don West Memorial page listing in the amount of \$250 and a donation made to Harris Hill in the amount of \$500. Income from Bell sales was \$3,936. Account has a net total balance of \$3,186.20 Income from Bell money is generally used to pay for coach's air fare. No other income to report. There is currently \$22,000 in savings account. A thank you call out to Janet Bliss for her help. Income money from the Salisbury Auction covered housing and van expenses. Chairman Hoffman stated that he has some ideas regarding fund raising that he would like to discuss later in the meeting. **Motion made by Jay Daniels to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by Ken Barker. All voted in favor.**

### **Winter Ski Jump Club Recap**

**Andover Outing Club NH-** Jay Daniels indicated that Andover had 23 kids with an attendance of approximately 16 kids at every practice. Four of the children were traveling up from Massachusetts. Sixteen were regular ski jumpers and seven participate in cross country as well. Ten of the children have attended summer camps in the past and most have indicated that they will attend this summer. The K18 ski jump is being converted to a K20 and the plan is to add plastic. Two parents have stepped up to be coaches this year. Everyone is looking forward to Larry Stone's Coaches training clinic.

**Harris Hill Brattleboro VT** – Todd Einig indicated that Harris Hill had a good event this year, but the weather conditions were extremely cold. More nations participated this year (United States, Slovenia, Turkey, Canada, Great Britain, Norway and Finland. The scheduling of joint competitions with Lake

## Eastern Ski Jumping & Nordic Combined Spring Meeting – April 2015

Placid worked out well. Gate fees remained the same. Cold conditions deterred some spectator participation, which resulted in entrance fee income to be way down. Brattleboro is thinking about the possibility of building a 20K meter hill in Brattleboro. The old 20K meter hill was located in the memorial park and might be worth fixing up.

**Lake Placid NY-** Evan Bliss had 4 to 5 new kids join the program. Evan said the program wasn't up, but wasn't down either. The 120K was opened for a short time, which was well received. Andrew Bliss helped on the Jr. National team trips. Everything went well. Chicago and Steamboat had a good group of kids. Three of the Lake Placid kids participated in the Brattleboro event and one scored points on both days. Lake Placid Jumper Landon is leaving the program and moving to Florida to be with his parents.

**Gunstock Nordic Association NH** - Kathleen Doyle spoke for Lisa Kling with the Gunstock update. Two events were scheduled over the winter. One was a US Cup Junior event and the other was a High School jumping event. Both had to be cancelled due to ice storms that hit the area right before the events. Gunstock is working on their recruiting, but needs assistance on hill maintenance and coaching during the week to get things going.

### **Hanover – Absent**

**Lebanon Outing Club NH** - Kathleen Doyle spoke for Jon Farnham with Lebanon update. Jon was able to recruit kids into the jumping program that were participating in downhill skiing events. He had about 5 to 6 regulars. End of season Mud Meet was a great success with large group participation. K25 hill was damaged from flooding. Plastic has to be replaced and Jon is working on raising money to replace plastic on that hill and possibly put plastic on K50.

**Salisbury Winter Ski Association CT** – Ken Barker stated that the winter went well with new installation of hill lights. They had about 12 kids steadily participating. He anticipates 5 or 6 over the summer. All but two of kids are using the 30 meter hill. Salisbury is in the process of buying more equipment. They need jumping suits. Taylor Hoffman said that if the committee were to authorize it, he would buy a large roll of ski jump suit material and his sister will sew and make the suits. Josh Flanders was also looking for suits too. A roll of material is \$1,200 to \$1,500 a roll. Salisbury also built a new building to house the Cat Equipment. They have added a changing room and a bathroom. Summer plans are to work on the landing hill. They will be moving dirt and cutting down more trees. The Junior Nationals are scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup>. The club is paying for kids going to summer camp. Salisbury is fund raising via letters. The club had \$30,000 at end of season. Gate fees were down a little during Jr. National Qualifier due to weather. New Hampshire high school kids program went well. Lots of complaints by parents after the Jr. National Qualifier program. Martina Lussi stated that some of the high school kids were decent, but they need to come to summer camp and jump throughout the season. Martina felt that many had power, but no technique. They are going up against the best in the country and she felt they did not look good. Evan said that Steamboat opened the jumping category levels and maybe we can do that in Salisbury, but we can't open it up to everyone.

**ORDA Lake Placid NY** – Pretty solid winter – Opened up the K120 for month or more. K90 was open until April 9th. Did not groom K48 for a month. Weather was good for FIS Cup and all went well. Good social feedback on the big hill being open. 25 athletes jumped big hill after FIS cup. **FIS Certificate is due to expire this year.** Need to possibly get extension.

Taylor sent out email requesting possible summer camp and did not get feedback. He suggested the last week of June till first week in July. Taylor wants to target local kids and the Central kids. Large hill in Park City and Normal Hill in Lake Placid because Lake Placid has Nordic. Taylor noted that he wants to make it known that they want to host Nationals. On December 29—30<sup>th</sup> Lake Placid will be holding Youth **Olympics Qualifier**. Steamboat has event Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, and Park City has event December 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Eastern Ski Jumping & Nordic Combined Spring Meeting – April 2015

Would like to confirm kids from Central before they make it a formal competition. They would like the K20; K48 and K90 participating. Taylor would like the development camp to roll into it. A suggestion would be to offer money rewards for competition. Taylor discussed Nick Fairall money raising golf tournament and a night golf tournament date: July doesn't get dark soon enough that's why they do it in August. Martina stated that they need to offer a real competition in order to get people to come instead of going to Steamboat.

Eau Clair will be hosting FIS Cup February 13-14, 2016, if they can **get FIS Certificate**, so Brattleboro is taking a year off. Brattleboro would host jumping event prior to Salisbury and suggested February 20-21<sup>st</sup>. Maybe it makes more sense to have a US cup in Lake Placid instead of FIS Cup, or a Continental Cup for Nordic Combined in Lake Placid.

There was discussion on Lake Placid hosting Continental Cup possibly in December because of conflict with Brattleboro and Salisbury. Evan Bliss said he would most likely not take team to Eau Claire, although he might send out a couple kids. Discussion on time frame to open K120-January or maybe late February.

**Summer Schedule** – There was discussion on targeting an eastern fund raising event for ESJNC. Organizing something in parade like roller jump for 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Possibly seeking business sponsorship. Taylor implied that there needs to be information on what's being offered like Olympic Training Center housing, Parade, and K90 jumping. Evan provided grasshopper camp dates with Summer Series – July 4<sup>th</sup> first – through July 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Eastern Website** – Ryan never responded back to Kari Hoffman to get web sit up so Kari, along with a coworker did it. Her coworker will be billing ESJNC for their services. Martina suggested changing team to athletes and adding athletes that might not be on team. Website will go live mid May. Kari will continue to go forward and build out from that time period. It was suggested to add donation support page. There will be a tracking device on the web site. Ken Barker suggested we pay Kari for her yearly maintenance of the web site. Kathleen said as secretary she would get information from all clubs. Besides club pictures, the web site will hold video as well. There will also be navigation links that will connect to links such as Jr. Cup Nationals.

**FACEBOOK PAGE:** ESJNC Facebook page has been temporarily hosting club information in place of Web page for all Club Updates.

Kari wants to do a Mission Statement for the web site. Kathleen read from the By-Laws Purpose – Send Kari a copy of the by-laws – she wants to write up a long term 5 year vision along with that. She will send that out to everyone for review, and we will vote on this via email.

Kari suggested intergrading the board with other people other than ski jumping people. Kari suggested people that are interest in fund raising. She feels it will bring in fresh ideas. It was suggested that maybe each club bring a parent to the board meeting. ORDA suggested we discuss board members with outside people as a much needed discussion item at our next meeting.

**Recruiting** – Rebecca Dayton was asking questions as to what each club is doing to promote the program. How do different clubs recruit? Andover runs newspaper ads and NH clubs do elementary school roller jump events to promote the sport. Andover also has Nick Fairall as an Olympian. Nick participates in club events. Use this as part of the web site development – how many known athletes listed on the Web Page. It was suggested to Kari that she should create a questionnaire to the Athletes and post on web site like: How did you get start in this sport, etc....

## Eastern Ski Jumping & Nordic Combined Spring Meeting – April 2015

There was discussion on the US Junior Cup series and how it has been a great success across the country in getting kids to travel from one club to another.

Martina noted that coaches need to be with their kids, they cannot just send them to events without support. Lions club had more parents and more coaches show up than ever before. Martina feels that we should hold clubs accountable. NYSEF cannot be responsible for kids just showing up.

Rebecca Dayton – asked do you need to write a club policy as to who is competent?

Jay Daniels - It's different if a kid has been showing up at LP on a regular basis, and then needs to attend an event without his coach, that Evan might step in if he knows ahead of time.

Rebecca Dayton – Perhaps we need to raise the standard for coaching. Coaches should have training. Martina stated that maybe we should attach a coaches 100 event to a grasshopper camp. Martina stated that we have the more professional coaches so that NYSEF should host it. Evan stated that the coaches training that Alan was putting together is more aimed at the ski jumping then the coaches 100. Grasshopper camp possibly in October will be coaches training. Evan will do an email.

There were some discussion on possibly using the VT Academy jumps again.

**ESJNC Club Updates:** Rex Bell has resigned from USASJ as well as Walter Malmquist – both members of the Junior Committee. Martina Lussi had also resigned, but withdrew that resignation. Kathleen noted that she would like to see more representation on the ESJNC committee from NH. Martina said we have Jay Daniels. Kathleen stated that New Hampshire has several clubs participating and she would like to see at least one more member from one of those clubs representing NH on the committee. Joshua Flanders from Hanover was suggested by Taylor as a possible member. Martina said we should also have someone from Vermont. Mark Breen was suggested as another possible candidate.

Discussion on Jr. National Qualifiers – Evan Bliss stated that his understanding of the Lebanon and NY Jr. National qualifiers were only to see if they can jump on a 65K, he did not understand them to be actual qualifiers for Jr. Nationals. Kathleen stated that her understanding, and Jon Farnham's understanding was that they were to be considered qualifiers, especially if kids cannot afford to travel to Chicago or if they cannot get out of school for that period of time. Jon was adamant at the last meeting that a kid should not have to leave the East to qualify for an Eastern team. Martina is insistent that she feels that a jumper needs to do summer camp and Chicago and Salisbury to be eligible. Her philosophy has been the same, in development of athlete, they need to move from 50 to 65 before trying out of Jr. Nationals. You don't need to see a kid crying because they only went 35 meters. Taylor said he would contact Joshua Flanders so he makes sure the High School kids know about summer camp. Rebecca Dayton – the rules should be sent out on a regular basis to clubs so that kids meet the rules. There was discussion on some kids being financially unable to afford trips to Chicago and unable to get the time away from school to make such a trip. There should be a secondary path for financial reasons.

It was noted that the Salisbury Jr. National age groups categories will be U16 and U20. Martina spoke about Eastern hosting Jr. Nationals this year and that Salisbury will need help. Ken Barker said he needs help with the XC portion. He would love to have Marge from Lake Placid or someone competent in knowing how to run a XC event. More information will be available after next month.

USSA Congress – Members discussed Taylor Hoffman attending – **Ken Barker motion for ESJNC to pay ½ for Evan Bliss and all for Taylor Hoffman. Jay Daniels seconded that motion. All voted in favor.**

## Eastern Ski Jumping & Nordic Combined Spring Meeting – April 2015

Evan would like to upgrade Eastern Team Jackets. Ken Barker said he would like to join together on ordering. Members discussed Travel team jackets. Martina Lussi will get quote and we will do an email vote. It's estimated it will be approximately 15 jackets. There was also discussion on summer jackets that athletes can buy themselves. They are looking at Stormtech and Patagonia jackets.

**Officials Report** – Jack Phelps submitted written Eastern Officials Report - 3 new judges passed their requirements to become Eastern Division Officials: Walter Malmquist, John Fulton and Mark Breen. Mark and Walter worked in Salisbury at the Jr. National Qualifier. There was an official's seminar held in Lake Placid in November for both judges and TD's. Jay Rand was nominated for National TD this year at the Park City National Convention. Martina Lussi was Judge at Large Hill National Championships, Park City, UT; Jack Phelps, Jim Carter and Peter Claus were judges at Normal Hill National Championships, Lake Placid and ATD was Art Togle; Jack Phelps, Ken Barker(TD) at Junior Nationals, Steamboat Springs, CO.

Organizational Chart – Taylor Hoffman made changes to Organizational Chart removing Walter Malmquist and Rex Bell from the ESJNC Jr. Nationals Committee and adding Mark Breen and Joshua Flanders.

Members discussed early snow camp for Thanksgiving week. Is it possible to get High School jumpers to participate? Kathleen will check with High Schools at Fall High School meeting and get back to Evan.

Taylor discussed that the Guideline for coaches will be posted on web site. Martina Lussi will put together Junior National rules for web page posting, but will have committee review it before posting. Jay Daniels asked about Jr. National athlete deposit requirements – Martina said that they stopped doing that.

**Fall Meeting** – Suggested date and time: Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am with the Officials meeting/clinic at 1:00 pm. Taylor would like winter schedule done in advance of the meeting. The meeting will most likely run late. A draft schedule will be sent out to everyone.

**Adjournment** - Jay *motioned to adjourn at 3:16 pm. Ken seconded that motion. All voted in favor, motion carried.*

*Time: 3:06 pm*

*Respectfully Submitted:  
Kathleen Doyle, Secretary*