



ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA.....	PAGE 2
2023 AGM MINUTES.....	PAGE 3
PRESIDENT'S REPORT.....	PAGE 4
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.....	PAGE 4
DIRECTORS' REPORTS.....	PAGE 5
2023/24 FINANCIAL REVIEW SUMMARY.....	PAGE 7
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' NOMINATION APPLICATION.....	PAGE 8

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of
Equestrian Nova Scotia will be held on
Sunday, November 17, 2024 at the Delta Hotel in Dartmouth, NS.

Delegate Registration: 10:00 a.m.
Meeting Begins: 10:30 a.m.

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order, including declaration of quorum
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of 2023 AGM
4. Business arising/action items from 2023 AGM Minutes
5. New Business, including:
 - A) Reports of Officers and Committees - Included in our Annual Report, on Equestrian Nova Scotia website at equestriannovascotia.ca and available on the day of meeting.
 - B) Consideration and Approval of 2023/24 Equestrian Nova Scotia Financial Statements – Financial Summary included in Annual Report. The Financial Report in its entirety will be available at the AGM
 - D) 2023/24 Equestrian Nova Scotia Annual Review Presentation
 - E) Election of Directors
6. Adjournment

2023 Equestrian Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting The Inn on Prince Conference and Convention Centre November 19, 2023 Unapproved Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call/Welcome

• Called to order at 10:36 am by President Kris Foley.
Present: Voting Members: Gillian Allan, Kim Beaton, Loretta Buchanan, Kris Foley, Lesley Langley, Barbie Lewis, Melissa MacDonald, Katarin MacLeod, Jennifer MacNeil, Valerie McDermott, Mary-Clare McLaren, Roz Moskovits, Scott Roberts, Adrienne Smith, Helen Smith, Hannah Tower, Jessica Wood, Andy Woolaver Staff: Heather Myrer

2. Declaration of Quorum

Based on registration quorum was met.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Mary-Clare McLaren, seconded by Gillian Allan. No contrary minded, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

Motion was made to approve the 2022 NSEF AGM Minutes by Mary-Clare McLaren, seconded by Barbie Lewis. No contrary minded, motion carried.

5. Business arising/action items from 2022 Minutes (old business)

- None

6. New Business

a. Reports from Officers and Committees – as submitted and presented.

Motion to approve all committee reports was made Valerie McDermott, seconded by Adrienne Smith. No contrary minded, motion carried.

b. Annual Financial Statements Review

The 2022/23 Financial Statements Review was completed by Shellnutt Accountants and presented at the AGM by Treasurer Barbie Lewis, with assistance from Executive Director, Heather Myrer. Motion to approve the 2022/23 Financial Statements Review was made by Barbie Lewis, seconded by Mary-Clare McLaren. No contrary minded, motion carried.

D. Annual Update to Members

Equestrian Nova Scotia's Annual Update/targets were based on our Strategic Vision and were presented by Executive Director, Heather Myrer. A Motion to accept the Equestrian Nova Scotia Annual Update as presented was made by Helen Smith, seconded by Val McDermott. Motion carried.

e. Election of Directors

Equestrian Nova Scotia's Nominations Committee Chairperson, Kris Foley, presided over the Election of Directors and presented a slate of candidates for consideration as per the nomination process. Lesley Langley, Director of Competitions, 2-year term Adrienne Smith, Director of Recreation, 2-year term Kim Fortin, Director-at-Large 3-Year term Valerie McDermott, Director-at-Large 3-Year term At a meeting of Member Clubs, Melissa MacDonald was acclaimed as the Director of Clubs – one-year term Motion to accept the 2023/2024 Equestrian Directors as elected by the membership was made by Andy Woolaver, seconded by Helen Smith. Motion carried.

A formal acknowledgement and thanks were expressed to Jennifer MacNeil for her dedication and commitment to Equestrian NS as a Board member.

7. Termination of Meeting

The business of the 2023 Equestrian Nova Scotia AGM was addressed. A Motion to terminate the meeting as of 11:35 a.m. was made by Lesley Langley. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Jennifer MacNeil,
Equestrian Nova Scotia
Volunteer Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Submitted by Kris Foley

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about a very important topic, equestrian's Social License to Operate (SLO) – the term given to society's acceptance of the practice of equestrian sport and all its related activities. Though the bond between horses and humans has been around for centuries, ensuring that this relationship continues to flourish in the future requires ongoing support and approval from society at large. Equestrianism, whether it involves sports, recreational activities, or breeding, relies heavily on the endorsement and acceptance of the wider community. As such, it's crucial for all of us—whether owner, leaser, breeder, show participant, trainer, coach, rider, or caretaker—to take responsibility for the well-being of these animals. For equestrianism to thrive in the long term, we must not only maintain but also actively strengthen our social license to operate. This means consistently prioritizing horse welfare and making sure that this commitment is visible to the public at all times. It's essential that everyone involved in equestrian activities demonstrates this dedication to horse welfare, showing through

actions and transparency that horses are always put first. Mistakes are inevitable in any field, and the world of horses is no exception. However, what I feel sets our responsible equestrian community apart is the ability to learn from these errors and continually strive to improve. By acknowledging and addressing our mistakes, and by proving through our efforts that we are committed to the highest standards of care, we can build and maintain trust with society. When the public sees that we are genuinely dedicated to the welfare of our horses, they are more likely to support and endorse equestrianism. In doing so, we ensure that our social license remains intact, securing a positive future for the equestrian world.

I'll wrap up with a round of thank you's to the wonderful staff and my fellow Board members; to all individuals who volunteered your time at one of our many events; and finally, thank you to those who took the time to chat with me this year. It was so nice talk with you about your horses, your lessons, and your thoughts on a variety of topics.

In closing, please stay safe and be respectful. Be Kind!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Submitted by Heather Myrer

As we immerse ourselves into the final programs and events of 2024, I am delighted to share some updates and insights from our operations team – many highlighted throughout this publication.

Paramount to our vision, Equestrian Nova Scotia is fully committed to fostering a safe sport environment for equestrian in our province. One year ago, we initiated board-approved, mandatory Safe Sport standards for Staff, Board and Coaches/Persons Responsible at our Scotia Series competitions. As a Provincial Sport Organization, this program was guided by Sport Nova Scotia and the Government of Nova Scotia. A culture shift such as this had its challenges and push-backs, but we persevered. I am pleased to report that, in 2024, we were 95% safe sport compliant under these guidelines. We also included safe sport standards for those coaches whose students access Sport Nova Scotia's Kidsport program. As we move into the next phase of safe and inclusive sport, please help us in doing your part to ensure a smooth transition.

As you will read, we had a remarkable year in celebrating our members' successes and supporting educational and equine welfare initiatives such as Everything Equine Expo and the Atlantic Canada Equine Symposium.

Scotia Series continues to grow, including a significant increase in dressage participation with the hard work from competition managers in many areas across the province! A successful pilot called I Can Event was launched under Scotia Series and we anticipate that this will be a regular division in

the future! As proven in our feature article, there's power in partnerships!

As we focus on inclusive and barrier-free access to our programs, we are proud to offer care-giver funding, Kidsport Equestrian, IDEAS Initiative, on-line program options and payment plans that support the needs of you, our members. If you ever have difficulty in participating in any of our programs, please reach out and we will do our best to assist you!

It's membership renewal time and we are thrilled to report that we have exceeded the 4000-member mark already. It is strongly recommended that you renew before the end of the year to retain your insurance benefits, and have access to events, educational and funding opportunities, participation awards such as Horseplay, and much more. Remember to refer a new member to ENS and you can save on the cost of your own membership. Every referral earns you \$5 towards your next renewal!

We are a small but mighty operational team! My sincerest thank you to Sheila Currie and Charlotte Grace for their dedication, commitment, and hard work. We also have amazing support on a contractual basis from Helen Smith and Roz Moskovits, our Performance Program coaches, and Jennifer Murphy, our Competition Specialist. Everything we do is made possible by you, our members, our clubs, our sponsors, our volunteers, and our Board of Directors, especially our President, Kris Foley, who guides us daily with her leadership! Have a safe and wonderful rest of 2024!

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT – By Adrienne Smith

I am very pleased that our annual Ride and Drive event finally happened on June 1, 2024, after being postponed from last fall due to an equine health concern. Many thanks to Evangeline Trail Rides for hosting this awesome event that even a rain shower couldn't dampen! People braved the forecast and trailered in to ride along with volunteers from Evangeline Trail Rides who provided much guidance and information about the trails. The trails are all named and suitable for all levels of riders. A map was provided for the riders. In all, there were 28 participants! Once again, a huge thank you to Crystal Joyce Manning and her amazing crew at Evangeline Trail Rides for the awesome day on the trails!

The interactive Horseplay Rewards Program has been in use for a while now, allowing you to track your equine related activity while accumulating points towards rewards.

Take advantage of our educational programs such as Learn to Ride/Drive, P'Tit Trot, Rookie Rider, Safe Sport, and information for those both new to the sport or interested in Long Term Equestrian Development. Our website is

a wealth of information on these topics and has links to many more, such as Horse Welfare. Keep an eye on our E-News and website for upcoming courses partnered with Equine Guelph's Horse Portal.

Our IDEAs Program provides funding to qualified member clubs and riding establishments for programming that support Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility in equestrian sport.

ENS is a partner on Nova Scotia Trails as a trail user group and I have attended several meetings. Through their website, interactive trail maps are available. Please use your safety equipment and conduct yourself in an appropriate and safe manner while enjoying these riding opportunities. We all need to respect each other on the trails.

Now that the heat of the summer is over, the fall presents a great opportunity to get outside and enjoy our beautiful province in the company of your equine partner. Be aware of hunting season and wear appropriate safety orange for visibility. Wishing you safe and happy riding/driving!

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION REPORT – By Kris Foley

Focus on Education - Our commitment to enhancing the quality of education through innovative coaching programs remains steadfast. This year, we have introduced several key initiatives aimed at supporting our coaches and instructors, ensuring they have the best tools and resources available.

Coach Cohort - We are excited to announce the launch of our new Coach Cohort program, a fantastic tool designed to support candidates in their coaching journey. This program works in conjunction with our Coach Classroom, providing a comprehensive support system. We have successfully trained two facilitators through Ontario and are now equipped to offer our own full cohort. The first full cohort will commence this fall. Interested candidates are encouraged to register now, with the registration deadline set for October 10th. For more details, please refer to our calendar of events.

Coach Classroom - Launched last year, the Coach Classroom has been instrumental in providing the certification requirement information all in one, organized place. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the program's effectiveness and administrative efficiency. We are thrilled to see the positive impact it has had on our candidates and look forward to its continued success.

Coach Symposium - Our Coach Symposium continues to be a cornerstone of our educational offerings, providing a platform for coaches to share knowledge, strategies, and best practices. This symposium is integral to our strategic goal of promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) within our coaching community. By fostering an inclusive environment, we aim to ensure that all voices are heard and valued.

Strategic Goal – Equity Diversity and Inclusion - We are dedicated to creating an inclusive coaching environment where diversity is celebrated, and equity is paramount. Our initiatives are designed to support this goal, ensuring that all coaches and instructors feel valued and empowered.

In addition to our main programs, we offer various sessions at different times throughout the year. These sessions are open to all coaches and instructors, providing opportunities for continuous learning and development. To stay updated on these offerings, we encourage everyone to follow our social media channels, check our calendar of events, and subscribe to our e-newsletter. We are committed to making coaching the best it can be and look forward to another successful year of growth and development.

DIRECTOR OF CLUBS REPORT – By Melissa MacDonald

Fifteen member clubs took advantage of our Club Membership. These clubs were offered support for governance, access to funding initiatives, listing on our website, and promotion of events.

This year, we introduced the IDEA Initiative which aims to help clubs and riding establishments develop programming to increase Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility in the sport. The 2025 Club Applications and are open and available on our website! For more information on

Club Membership or the IDEA's initiative, please contact Charlotte at nsefservices@sportnovascotia.ca.

Our Volunteers are working hard within their respective clubs and organizations so that our athletes can grow in this sport both with their horses and with their fellow competitors. I want to personally thank all the volunteers that work countless hours in hosting competitions, running events, and making sure our athletes are advancing in out sport.

I have heard some great feedback this year from our

clubs about how this sport is growing and advancing. Our coaches are working very hard with their students so that they can be at the top of their game whether for

competition or for the enjoyment of riding. Our sport has grown so much over the years, and I am so proud to be part of it with you. Part of this growth has been our Scotia Series competitions which added a new discipline this year, Eventing!

Competition managers and their team of volunteers are supported by Equestrian NS with live system

training opportunities and assistance during competition. The HorseSport.Pro on-line competition system allows competitions, both big and small, to competently handle entries, schedules, officials, and essential competition information. If your club is interested in hosting/seeking information on a Scotia Series competition, please contact Charlotte at nsefservices@sportnovascotia.ca.

Again, I want to thank all our clubs, coaches, and athletes on a fantastic year. I am excited to see what 2025 holds for us!

2025 Club Applications NOW OPEN

Club Membership Benefits

- Access to Funding Initiatives
- Governance Assistance
- Event Promotion
- Website Listing



Scan here for Application

DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY REPORT – By Barbie Lewis

2024 has been very different from 2023 with new issues to deal with, very high heat and humidity plus, of course, rain. I'm sure our members did the very best they could to help their equine partners.

I would again like to keep you informed about our ongoing partnerships with some of the national equine organizations who offer very beneficial programs, educational opportunities and services that may be of interest to you, our member. The first is Equine Guelph and their Horse Portal that offers numerous courses including Health and Welfare, Equine Business 101, and many more. Second, Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada (HWAC). They offer the Equine Code of Practice on-line course and other advocacy programs. They have resources posted on their website (horsewelfare.ca) such as Understanding Canada's Transport of America Regulations. HWAC also keeps us informed on health issues affecting the horse community and offer health and welfare resources.

It is also important to recognize the tireless efforts of our insurance partner, ACERA. Mike King and his staff have supported us with many educational and equine welfare initiatives over the past 15 years; from optional insurance

benefits to funding to help with seminars and programs that we have been able to offer to you!

This year, we had supported members who were impacted by the extreme snowfall along with Cape Breton's Everything Equine Expo, the Atlantic Canada Equine Symposium, both important educational opportunities for our members.

EQUINE WELFARE

RESOURCES AND LINKS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
equestriannovascotia.ca
or scan QR Code



DIRECTOR OF COMPETITIONS REPORT – Submitted by Lesley Langley

The 2024 competition season started strong with the first Scotia Series show in May having 100 competitors over two days. In total, there will be 24 Scotia Series shows, in various disciplines. This also includes the multi-disciplined shows such as exhibitions or those combining general performance with hunter and jumper.

It is exciting to see the addition of the ICE events on the Scotia Series schedule. This is a pilot program with EC and a great starting point for riders wishing to get into eventing. Thank you to Red Ridge Farm and Clay Hill Farm for hosting the three well attended competitions. It was the first year these venues have hosted a Scotia Series ICE competition and we look forward to many more! The ICE course design clinic was well attended giving our future ICE competition organizers a good selection of course designers to choose from.

We also welcomed Hunter’s Creek Farm for their first Scotia Series sanctioned hunter/ jumper show and Swell Equestrian will be hosting a total of three dressage competitions; the last which will be October 5th and count towards 2025 Scotia Series Awards and Championships. There are 6 scheduled EC Hunter/ Jumper competitions and 2 Dressage competitions. This year, Gold competitors in Dressage and Eventing will

also be ranked for national awards.

Thank you to all Competition Managers, Officials, Volunteers, Persons Responsible and Athletes for their continued efforts to help achieve 100% Safe Sport standards met. If you aren’t Safe Sport compliant as of yet, it is never too late. Most courses can be done at no charge. Course links can be found on our website. Safe Sport benefits everyone in competition.

Charlotte and Jennifer have been a great team in the Equestrian NS office, working hard with competition organizers to get the competitions set up and approved as quickly as possible. The HorseSport.Pro software has been updated and Jennifer continues to make herself available to organizers to help troubleshoot any issues they may have.

With so many competitions in varied disciplines available, this could be an exciting year for new and returning competitors, and ultimately end with an incredible Provincial Championship in October! As an additional note, if you cannot compete this year, but want to be involved with competitions, please reach out to the organizers in your area. There is always a need for volunteers and these opportunities can be a great way to learn about the various disciplines offered.

FINANCE REPORT

EQUESTRIAN NOVA SCOTIA STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 202

Summary only provided by Shelnutt Accountants - Full review will be available in AGM Package

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS		
Technical/Competitive Programs	\$ 119,002	\$ 81,247
Organization operations	348,344	307,806
Participatory Programs	20,310	36,610
Investment revenue (loss)	4,882	(2,482)
	<u>492,538</u>	<u>423,181</u>
EXPENSES		
Technical/Competitive Programs	\$ 112,369	\$ 89,552
Organization operations	332,324	353,120
Participatory Programs	48,198	43,722
	<u>492,891</u>	<u>486,394</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUE	<u>\$ (353)</u>	<u>\$ (63,213)</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>289,621</u>	<u>352,834</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 289,268</u>	<u>\$ 289,621</u>



**Nominations Committee
Report October 30, 2024**

As per Bylaw Article 33, a notice had been posted for the membership to volunteer or be nominated for the open positions on the Board of Directors. The closing date for applications was October 18th, 2024.

As of October 30th, 2024, there has been expressed interest in all vacant positions, as outlined in the table below.

The Director of Clubs nominee was approved by Club member directors and will be ratified at the AGM.

Positions With Vacancies For 2024		
Position	Term	Expression of Interest
Director of Clubs	1-year term	Melissa MacDonald
Director of Equine Industry	2-year term	Barbie Lewis
Director of Education	2-year term	Kris Foley
Director-at-Large	3-year term	Catherine Lecrone
Director-at-Large	3-year term	Julia Cecchetto

The slate of newly filled Director positions will be presented for acceptance to the membership at the AGM on Sunday, November 17th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Nominations Committee Chair
Val McDermott



Board of Directors Election 2024 Position Roles

Director of Education

- Structure - One Equestrian Nova Scotia Member elected at the Annual General Meeting for a Two-Year Term, to a maximum of two terms

Role

- To be the “voice” of Education at the Equestrian NS Board Level;
- Chair the Multi-Discipline Coach Committee
- In partnership with the Director of Technical Development, act as the liaison for all Coach Disciplines, Rider education and Officials Development;
- In partnership with the Director of Technical Development, act as a liaison with Equestrian Canada’s Coaching, Long Term Equestrian Development and Rider Development programs;
- Keep a portfolio of Equestrian NS Membership Applications, program/service brochures to have on hand and distribute when the opportunity arises, i.e. competitions, club meetings, recreational events;
- Work in partnership with the Director of Technical Development to promote education i.e. Coach Symposium, trade shows;
- Reports to the Board, submit annual budget and annual report;
- Represent and Promote Equestrian NS in a positive and informative manner

Director of Equine Industry

- Structure - One Equestrian Nova Scotia Member elected at the AGM for a Two-Year Term, to a maximum of two terms

Role

- Sector Representative
- Equestrian NS Representative to Equestrian Canada Industry Committee, if applicable;
- Equestrian NS Representative to the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada;
- In conjunction with committee members, identify need for Clinics/Seminars, trade show presence, education resources;
- Assist with Website content on subject matter;
- Reports to the Board, submit annual budget and annual report;
- Represent and Promote Equestrian NS in a positive and informative manner.

Director-at-Large (two Directors elected)

Structure - Two Positions are held for a three-Year term, to a maximum of two terms.

Role

- Member of Equestrian Nova Scotia’s sub-committees, when required;
- Use skill set to contribute to the programs and services Equestrian Nova Scotia offers to its members;
- Keep a portfolio of Equestrian Nova Scotia Membership Applications, program/service brochures to have on hand and distribute when the opportunity arises
- Reports to the Board, submits annual budget and annual report;
- Represent and promote Equestrian Nova Scotia in a positive and informative manner.

Director of Clubs

Structure - One Equestrian Nova Scotia Member Club Director is elected by the directors of member clubs/associations prior to the AGM, to preside on the Equestrian Nova Scotia Board of Directors for a one-year term.

Role

- Be the “voice” for the clubs in the province;
- Chair the Equestrian Nova Scotia Club Meetings;
- Promote Equestrian Nova Scotia Programs to clubs via emails, social media, etc.;
- Keep a portfolio of Equestrian Nova Scotia Membership Applications, program/service brochures to have on hand and distribute when the opportunity arises;
- Reports to the Board, submit annual budget and annual report;
- Represent and promote Equestrian Nova Scotia in a positive and informative manner

2024/2025 Equestrian Nova Scotia Board of Directors Slate of Nominees for Election

Barbie Lewis	Director of Equine Industry	2-year term
Kris Foley	Director of Education	2-year term
Melissa MacDonald	Director of Clubs	1-Year term
Catherine Lecrone	Director-at-Large	3-Year term
Julia Cecchetto	Director-at-Large	3-Year term

Barbie Lewis – Nomination for Equine Industry

Barbie has been a competitor in numerous disciplines (Dressage, Hunter, Horse Trials, Arabian, Morgan, Competitive Trail, Hackney, and Roaster). As an Owner/Organizer she oversaw Eventing at Red Bank Farm for over 20+ years and Nova Scotia Canadian Sport Horse Shows for 12 years.

Barbie has been a Senior Jumper Judge for over 20 years and a Horse Trials Entry Level Dressage Judge 10+ years.

Barbie was involved with the Nova Scotia Horse Trials holding various positions including President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Editor of Horse Trials Newsletter. In addition, she represented NS on the National Horse Trials Board as a Director at Large for 14 years.

Barbie served on several Equestrian Canada National Boards, including President of Provinces Council, Sport Council, and on the EC National Board of Directors. Over the past number of years, she has served on the NSEF Board, as President for 9 years, Vice-President for 10 years. Barbie is currently serving as the ENS Director of Equine Industry years as well as the Treasurer for the past 4 years.



Krista (Kris) Foley – Nomination for Director of Education

Kris is a knowledgeable horseperson with exposure to a broad spectrum of equine pursuits. She showed/coached in both Western and English disciplines; operated a Boarding and Lesson facility; operated an overnight, weeklong equestrian camp; owned and stood at stud an Appaloosa stallion; provided training services for young and “problem” horses; judged EC Bronze and Scotia Series level events (still does a few).

Kris has been a member of the NSEF Board of Directors in numerous roles including Director of Recreation, Secretary, Treasurer, Director-at-Large and Vice President (most recent position).

Kris is a CPA, bringing a strong background in finance, management, ethics and governance.

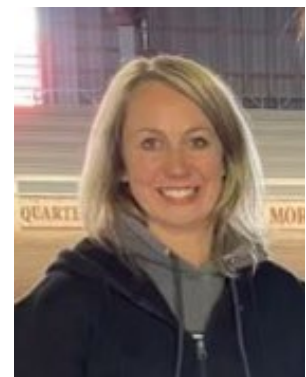
Unfortunately, for health reasons Kris no longer rides/competes, however this leaves more time for volunteer activities and spending time with her grandchildren.



Melissa MacDonald– Nomination for Director of Clubs

Melissa has been involved in the equestrian sport in in Cape Breton for many years. Melissa has shown competitively throughout the Maritimes in years past. Melissa has sat on the board of Directors for the Cape Breton Western for 24 years holding positions such as the Treasure and President Position. Three years ago, Melissa and other community members in Cape Breton formed the Cape Breton Exhibition Society and purchased the Exhibition Grounds in North Sydney. Melissa is the 2nd Vice President on this board and is still very active in the horse community. Melissa and her board have rejuvenated the exhibition grounds and have been integral in maintaining a strong sense of equestrian community in the CBRM.

Melissa is pleased to be representing her peer group of clubs once again.



Catherine Lecrone – Nomination for Director-at-Large

Relatively new to Equestrian Nova Scotia, Catherine splits her time between The Netherlands and Nova Scotia, since purchasing a home on the far reaches of the Eastern Shore. Professionally, she is a certified Project Manager and own her own consulting firm specializing in leading teams and projects of varying sizes around the world – particularly in the business operations, customer satisfaction, and efficiency realms.

Catherine grew up in Hamilton, Virginia, USA and has been riding & competing actively for over 30 years, participating in her first Scotia Series this past summer. She has been trained in eventing, CTs, dressage, hunters, Eq, fox hunting, and Pony Club. Whenever possible, Catherine supports shows and events which host classes like “Too Slow to Go”, Thoroughbred retraining programs, 2nd Career classes, etc.. Catherine also has a soft spot for specialties such as Ladies Sidesaddle, games, Field Hunters, and more; anything to drive engagement, support local organizations, and increase awareness within the community.

Catherine would love to help grow, lead, and support the Equestrian Nova Scotia programs and strongly believe that her business skills could help and support the group’s mission, vision, and values. Since joining and experiencing the NS Equestrian community, she knew she wanted to volunteer to wherever she could be most useful.



Julia Cecchetto – Nomination for Director-at-Large

Julia has been a horse owner for over 50 years, most of which was as a non-showing/competing person. When she did compete, it was at 4-H, competitive trail riding or community-based competitions. Julia believes that this gives her a different perspective on being a horse person on the ENS board and can represent the voice of many NS horse owners. Julia also has experience in the Hunter/Jumper world over the last 20 years as her daughters showed at the EC level.

During her time as a Pony Club mom, Julia oversaw large and small horse show offices during.

Having retired three years ago from Policing, Julia finds herself volunteering on local boards to stay involved and keep active within her community. One of those communities is the equestrian community so she would like the opportunity to be involved at the provincial level. Julia considers herself ethically and morally strong and would represent all people’s interests throughout the province.

