

U.S.A. PLOWING ORGANIZATION

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WEB SITE FOR USAPO: <http://usapo.org>

USAPO National Plow Competition in Mendon OH September 29, 2020

The USAPO National Plow Match was held in Mendon Ohio on July 31st-August 1st, 2020. The match was organized by the Ohio State Plowing Association headed by Don Hays with much help from Mike Rhoades, Roger Fourman, and Robert Maurer. The USAPO Plowmen's Banquet was held on Thursday evening on July 30th. The OH State match was to be held following the National match but due to rain was postponed till the next weekend.

The Plowmen's Banquet was held Thursday evening after practice. The Banquet food was catered to the plowsite and was an excellent meal. Indeed, the food preparers were at the plow site every day and also arranged for breakfasts and lunches. Very well done. Following the banquet there was a general membership meeting (meeting minutes following) and the drawing of the plots.

From my point of view the National Match was very well organized with good plowing conditions with extra space to hold the Kverneland Challenge. The soil conditions were excellent for the competition varying from sandy loam to heavier bottom land soil.

On Friday, the first day of competition, the weather and conditions were excellent. The National Antique class competed starting at 9am, followed by the National Small Plow/Reversible classes at noon and the National Junior class at 4pm.

On the second day of competition we were met with some hard rain as we arrived at the plow site. The National Open class was scheduled for 9am, while National Small Plow/Reversible classes were to start at noon. Things were delayed a bit but the Open class plowmen and plowwomen persevered through the pouring rain and finished with some excellent plowing. Many competitors struggled to get across their plots due to the extremely slippery conditions. Usually in the rain there is good traction in the furrow but on this day both wheels on most tractors were spinning quite a bit. Even with the muddy conditions, plowing quality was excellent and very competitive.

The National Small Plow/Reversible classes were supposed to start at noon. There was a break in the weather and the plowing commenced with a mild rain. Rain slickers were needed even with tractor cabs and mud boots were necessary as the ground was very slick. Getting on and off the tractor was a challenge as well, luckily my shins came out unscathed. Curiously, the rain gradually slowed down and ultimately stopped and we had beautiful weather when time was up.

The top placings of the results are listed below.

National Open

1st John Gaard SD (231pts)
2nd Ron Kremer OH (226pts)
3rd Kyle Fourman OH (212pts)

National Antique

1st David Gaard SD (223pts)
2nd Lyle Grimm IA (217pts)
3rd Nick Ollinger IA (210pts)

National Junior Open

1st Paytyn Hiestand OH (182pts)
2nd Corey Stachler OH (146pts)

National Junior Antique

1st Bella Routt OH (148pts)
2nd Gage Schaffer OH (147pts)
3rd Clay Fischer OH (74pts)

National Junior Small Plow

1st Thomas Gower OH (138pts)

National Small Plow

1st Hailey Gruber MN (265+272=537pts)
2nd Joel Wagner CT (243+229=472pts)
3rd Ray Elsberry IA (204+245=449pts)

National Reversible

1st Kevin Albrecht SD (252+232=484pts)
2nd Dale Dirksen OH (235+244=479pts)
3rd Ron Fischer OH(186+-----=186pts)

USAPO Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes

7/30/2020

Meeting called to order at 6:53pm

President's comments:

Some plowmen still need to fill out entry form.

Land owner was introduced.

Minutes of last meeting reviewed.

Treasurer's report was presented:

Income:

Transfer of bank funds from Roger Neate to Joel Wagner	\$8000.00
Transfer of bank funds from Roger Neate to Joel Wagner	\$515.35
Dues collected to date	\$1470.00
Donations and reimbursement to USAPO	\$440.00

Expenditures:

Banking expenditure (cost of checks)	-\$26.85
Reimbursement to Wagner for newsletters	-\$444.32
USAPO Insurance	-\$535.00

Net Bank Balance after Bills Paid	\$9419.18
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Kevin Holl moved to accept reports. Don Hays seconds. Passed.

State Reports:

SD - Will have state meet

IA - Mike Fitz. Show canceled so no plowing this year. Maybe next match in the spring. National Plowing Contest to be held at Kevin Holl's farm in Conrad IA August 13th and 14th 2021.

OH - Mike Rhoades. Thank you all for coming to beautiful OH to plow in this year's Nationals

MN - Gene Gruber. MN State matches to be held Aug 21st and 22nd

CT - Joel Wagner. No report. Hold USAPO National in CT?

IL - Don Klehm. No report.

PA - State matches 2 weeks ago. Good state turnout. No plowmen/plowwomen to USAPO Nationals this year.

Baudette Report (John Gaard):

Generally cost USAPO about \$40K to support the WPO World Contest. Money flow from tractor and plow rental and donation from members reimbursed much of that cost.

Thank you all for helping out with the WPO World Match in Baudette, MN. Numerous international competitors gave very positive comments and much appreciated the free diesel provided by Cenex of Baudette, MN.

[JHW – As an update, we learned that our MN Tourism contact in Baudette, Alyse Berggren, recently passed away. She was a terrific lady to work with, so bright and full of energy. USAPO sent flowers and sponsored a tree planting in her name. This is the message to the family that we provided –

“In our brief time working with Alyse, many special friendships were cultivated. She worked tirelessly to help our USA Plowing Organization team get ready for the World Ploughing in Baudette. With her help the World Plowing event was extremely successful with many comments back to us from the international ploughmen. Alyse was a huge contributor to the preparations with signage and day-by-day errands in addition to getting the lunches out to the ploughmen during the competition. She was a wonderful friend and will be sorely missed. May you find comfort in your grief and may she Rest in Peace.”]

New Business:

The WPO world match scheduled for Russia this year has been moved to June 2021. The WPO world match in Ireland is still scheduled for September 2021.

Ted Bruemmer moved to adjourn. Lyle Grimm seconded. Passed.

Joel Wagner, Sec-Treasurer

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USAPO Directors Meeting Minutes

July 29th, 2020

A USAPO board of directors was held in St. Marys, OH at the Quality Inn. Called to order by Pres. John Gaard at 8:30pm Eastern time on July 29th, 2020. Directors present were: John Gaard-SD, Robert Miller-PA, Joel Wagner-CT, Michael Fitz-IA, and Michael Rhoades-OH. Roger Neate-OH was invited by Wagner to help answer secretary and treasurer transition questions. Gene Gruber represented MN for Mike Penas. Don Klehm was unable to attend but would be available by phone if pressing decisions were needed.

The minutes of the last directors meeting from April 25th, 2020 were read and approved.

The financial report, post transfer of USAPO funds to Joel Wagner in CT, was read. Mike Rhoades moved to accept the financial report and the payment of bills outlined in the financial report. Seconded by Mike Fitz.

Old Business:

Austin Magnuson will be unable to represent the USAPO in Russia, now scheduled for June 2021. It was decided to go through the final placements of the small plow class competition in Baudette MN. The second and third place finishers were also not able to travel to Russia in June of 2021. Mike Fitz moved to accept Ray Elsberry to represent USAPO for the WPO world meet in Russia in June, 2021. Seconded by Gene Gruber.

Gene Gruber announced that Russia would be providing Duetz-Fahr tractors for the competitors not bringing their own.

Payment of the WPO world dues was discussed. Dick Pedersen, our past WPO Representative donated the funds to pay the world dues. WPO 2020 dues were paid before the USAPO account was transferred to Joel. USAPO dues are now paid up for 2019 and 2020.

There was a motion and discussion to provide financial support for the world plowmen going to Russia. There has been some support of plowmen in the past as precedent however there was no second to the motion and the motion died.

There was a suggestion to increase the age range of equipment used in the Antique class. The rules now accept 1951 and earlier. Equipment in the 50's is now considered antique by many. No action at this time.

There was also discussion to increase the time limit of open and antique classes to be more commensurate with plowing times allowed for small plow and reversible proportional to area plowed. Bob Miller also suggested an increase in width as well as there is not much general plowing before starting one's finish passes. The action, suggested by Mike Fitz, is for each director to go back to their state's organizations and get state feedback for increased time and width.

New Business:

Gene Gruber for Mike Penas mentioned that Vernon Center, MN wants to celebrate the 50th anniversary of holding the WPO match held in 1972 by holding the USAPO National Plowing Match in 2022. Currently it is planned to hold the USAPO Nationals in IA in 2021 and in PA in 2022. PA would need to agree to give up their 2022 date. More to come.

Once again there is a Kverneland Challenge planned for July 30. Mike Rhoades of the OH State Plowing Organization thinks there are enough plots available for the national and the OH state matches and has identified plots for the challenge. The judging to be conducted by the Kverneland plowpersons.

It has been observed that at our national plowing matches there is some confusion as to how to report and apply time allowances for equipment breakdowns. Joel Wagner-CT will propose a way to approach and report back to the USAPO directors.

It is noted this year that there will be no timing light and an arm drop will be used to start the plowing.

The USAPO website needs some updating of information. We have been blessed with someone to have created and managed the site so far. Specifically, we need to update the download section and remove the garden tractor rules from 2006,

Adjourn -

Mike Fitz moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Rhoades seconded.

Meeting Adjourned

Your Secretary-Treasurer

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