

JANUARY 2016

Chasing

NATIONAL STEEPLCHASE ASSOCIATION | 400 FAIR HILL DRIVE, ELKTON, MD 21921

NSA achieves record purses in 2015; Irv Naylor sets owner earnings mark

The National Steeplechase Association celebrated the conclusion of a record-setting year at its annual awards dinner on Nov. 21 at the National Steeplechase Museum, where Irv Naylor's Dawalan was crowned as the 2015 Lonesome Glory Champions Award winner.

Earlier in the day, the Marion duPont Scott Colonial Cup brought down the curtain on a season that featured a record \$5,826,050 in purses paid to owners. That figure eclipsed by nearly a half-million dollars the previous mark of \$5,359,100 set in 2008.

Naylor, the runaway winner of the year's owner title, broke his own single-season earnings record with \$778,660 in purse money, eclipsing his 2011 record of \$719,725.

The York, Pa., sportsman and philanthropist had entered the Colonial Cup meet needing slightly more than \$30,000 to set the record, and his powerful stable raced past that target easily when Dawalan pulled away after the last fence of the \$100,000 Marion duPont Scott Colonial Cup (Gr. 1) and won by 5 1/4 lengths over his stablemate Rawnaq. Together, they accounted for \$78,000 of the purse.

Both are trained by Cyril Murphy, who accepted the owner's trophy and the Lonesome Glory Champions Award for Naylor, who was unable to attend. His wife, Diane Naylor, accepted the Colonial Cup trophy in his place before returning to their home. "My biggest regret is that Irv isn't here to see it," she said. "This is his great love." Naylor also was the champion owner of timber horses.

Dawalan, a five-year-old French-bred from the Aga Khan's renowned breeding operation, won two of three U.S. starts and accumulated U.S. earnings of \$255,000 to claim the Lonesome Glory Champions Award as the year's leading earner.



Irv Naylor's Dawalan, at left with Ross Geraghty, rallied past stablemate Rawnaq and Demonstrative to win the Marion duPont Scott Colonial Cup (Gr. 1) on Nov. 21.

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He also became the favorite for the Eclipse Award as North America's champion steeplechase horse. The largest piece of his purse earnings came from the \$300,000 Grand National (Gr. 1) at Far Hills, N.J., on Oct. 17.

Jack Fisher approached his own record for trainer earnings when he closed the 2015 season with \$1,047,600 in purses, second only to his \$1,156,907 in 2008. Fisher collected his fourth straight title as champion trainer by wins (28, 18 more than runner-up Leslie Young) and his ninth overall.

He also was the runaway leader by purse earnings, nearly doubling Murphy's total.

Fisher was the trainer of two 2015 divisional champions. Michael Moran's Ivy Mills closed strongly to win the Springdale Stakes on the Colonial Cup card and claim the Life's Illusion Filly and Mare championship. DASH Stable's Ice It reigned as the three-year-old champion after winning the Gladstone at Far Hills.

Paddy Young, who rode Ivy Mills to a stirring victory in the Springdale, reigned as the champion jockey by victories for a fifth time. The last jockey to claim five riding titles was Racing Hall of Fame member Jerry Fishback, who was the special guest of the Colonial Cup for the weekend in Camden, S.C. Jack Doyle was the 2015 earnings leader.



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Owner-Trainer Symposium set for April 10 in Va.

The second annual Owner-Trainer Symposium and Steeplechase Auction will be held Sunday, April 10, at Great Meadow Race Course in The Plains, Va.

A project of the National Steeplechase Association's Promotion and Growth Committee, the 2016 Owner-Trainer Symposium and Steeplechase Auction will build upon the success of the inaugural event at Shawan Downs in Maryland last April.

The 2016 Owner-Trainer Symposium and Steeplechase Auction will bring together industry leaders to share their insights into how to make jump-racing ownership a fulfilling and rewarding experience.

Last year's presenters were Dogwood Stable founder Cot Campbell, owner Michael Wharton, and Racing Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard. Speakers for the 2016 Symposium will be announced at a later date.

The Steeplechase Auction portion of the program will feature horses that are ready to run, are progressing toward their first 2016 starts, or are prospects for racing over fences. Entry procedures for the auction also will be announced at a later date.

Promotion and Growth Chair Al Griffin Jr. credited the work of his predecessor, inaugural chair Bill Price, and committee member Charles C. Fenwick Jr. for the success of the

first Owner-Trainer Symposium and Auction.

"The inaugural Owner-Trainer Symposium and Steeplechase Auction attracted a large, enthusiastic group of owners and prospective owners for a thought-provoking program," he said. "With a Virginia location in April, we hope to engage owners, trainers, and prospective owners from the entire Mid-Atlantic region."

Further details on the 2016 Owner-Trainer Symposium and Steeplechase Auction will be available on the Promotion and Growth Committee's site, www.gojumpracing.org and the National Steeplechase Association's website, www.nationalsteeplechase.com.

NSA endorses efforts to attract top horses to U.S.

The National Steeplechase Association's Board of Directors hailed the launch of the innovative \$500,000 Brown Advisory Iroquois Cheltenham Challenge and pledged its continuing support to bringing top overseas horses to race in leading NSA events.

The Brown Advisory Iroquois Cheltenham Challenge will offer a \$500,000 bonus to any horse that can win the \$150,000 Calvin Houghland Iroquois (Gr. 1) and the £260,000 Ladbrokes World Hurdle (Gr. 1) at England's Cheltenham Festival in March within a 12-month period.

The 2016 Calvin Houghland Iroquois is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, at Nashville's Percy Warner Park. Iroquois Steeplechase Chairman Dwight Hall noted that any winner of the Brown Advisory Challenge would gallop away with approximately \$850,000 in purses and bonus.

"The Brown Advisory Challenge is a valuable innovation for our sport, and the National Steeplechase Association supports it whole-



Cheltenham Race Course Chairman Robert Waley-Cohen, international horseman Charlie Fenwick, and Brown Advisory CEO Michael Hankin announced the Challenge in the U.K.

heartedly," NSA President Guy J. Torsilieri said. "This year, we offered record race purses. Our race meets and host tracks added nearly \$600,000 to their purses, an increase of more than 10%, and innovations such as the Brown Advisory Challenge help us to attract

new fans and to build worldwide awareness of our growing jump-racing program."

Michael D. Hankin, Brown Advisory's CEO and a prominent steeplechase owner, has been elected to a three-year term on the NSA's Board of Directors.

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