

SEPTEMBER 2015

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

NSA fall purses increase 10%; Grand National, Gold Cup raised

The National Steeplechase Association's Fall Championship Season will offer more than \$2.3-million in purses and will be highlighted by three Grade 1 races, an upgraded International Gold Cup, and a return to Kentucky Downs. In all, purses contained in the NSA's fall condition book total \$2,050,000, a 10% increase over record purses last fall.

"Several race meets have stepped up and made significant increases in their purses," said NSA Director of Racing Bill Gallo Jr. "These increases benefit our horsemen and make jump racing an even better investment for our owners."

Bill Price, who chairs the Promotion and Growth Task Force, said the higher purses make jump racing more desirable to flat owners looking for new careers for their horses. "Jump-racing purses are comparable to some of the best racetracks, and unparalleled hospitality makes our sport even more attractive," said Price, a horse owner and co-chair of the Queen's Cup Steeplechase near Charlotte.

The Far Hills Races on Oct. 17 will offer \$600,000 in purses, the highest total ever for a race meet. The purse for the New Jersey meet's marquee race, the Grand National (Gr. 1), will increase by \$50,000 to \$300,000, the



Paddy Young drove Petticoats Loose Farm's Choral Society to an upset victory in Saratoga's A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. 1) on Aug. 6.

TOD MARKS PHOTO

Want more information on jump racing?

For more information on jump racing and owning steeplechase horses, visit www.gojump racing.org, the website maintained by the National Steeplechase Association's Promotion and Growth Task Force.

Visit www.nationalsteeplechase.com for the latest headlines, race entries, and statistics. Information on the National Steeplechase Foundation is at www.nationalsteeplechasefoundation.org.

second-highest after the \$750,000 purse of the first Dueling Grounds International in 1990.

The International Gold Cup on Oct. 24 will provide \$370,000 in purse money, a nearly 30% increase over last year's \$285,000. In two years, International Gold Cup purses have more than doubled from \$145,000 in 2013.

On the program in The Plains, Va., will be the \$75,000 International Gold Cup, the fall's richest timber race. It carried a \$60,000 purse last year. Also on the program is the \$75,000 David L. "Zeke" Ferguson Memorial Stakes (Gr. 2), which had a \$50,000 purse last fall.

Also making a significant increase in purses is Shawan Downs in suburban Baltimore, where purses will increase by 50% to \$80,000. The featured Legacy Chase over timber fences will carry a \$25,000 purse, as will a Ratings Handicap Hurdle.

Returning to the NSA schedule is Kentucky Downs, which kicks off the fall program on Sept. 8. The former Dueling Grounds Race Course will present a \$40,000 Sport of Kings maiden hurdle and a \$25,000 flat race.

Belmont Park in New York again will feature jump racing on Sept. 24. On the Thursday program will be the \$150,000 Lonesome Glory Handicap (Gr. 1) and the \$75,000 William Entenmann Memorial Novice Stakes.

The Steeplechase at Callaway in Pine Mountain, Ga., on Nov. 7 will increase the purse of the AFLAC Supreme Hurdle for novices to \$75,000, a 50% increase.

The championship season concludes Nov. 21 with the Colonial Cup at Camden, S.C., with purses totaling \$200,000. Heading the season finale will be the \$100,000 Marion duPont Scott Colonial Cup (Gr. 1).

NSF hires Susan Freitag as executive consultant

National Steeplechase Foundation President Sam Slater announced that Susan Freitag has been hired to serve as the foundation's executive consultant and will have extensive involvement in fund-raising efforts.

A native of Canada currently residing in The Plains, Va., Ms. Freitag has extensive experience both with horses and horse organizations. She is a graduate of Carleton University, and her work with horses includes riding Grand Prix jumpers at Olympian Ian Millar's farm in Ontario.

Her company, SS Visions Consulting, provided extensive contract services to Equine Canada from 2000 through 2013.

Among her projects for Equine Canada

was creating the organization's *HorseLife* magazine, for which she served as editor in chief, designer, and sales manager. She also provided administrative support to Equine Canada's Industry Division Council, which was involved in business aspects of the Canadian horse business, such as export-import.

"We are pleased to have Susan Freitag become a part of the National Steeplechase Foundation team," Slater said. "We have no doubt that her extensive experience working with Equine Canada will benefit the foundation, and she has developed considerable knowledge of steeplechasing in her time in Virginia. She will help to increase the visibility of the foundation and assist fund-raising."



The National Steeplechase Foundation's second annual Young Rider Ireland Experience created unforgettable memories in July. Led by Regina Welsh, the Ireland Experience allowed Emme Fullilove, Meggie Harrigan, Brittany Scampton, and John Brophy to participate in many aspects of the Irish horse business, including riding out at training barns and attending races. At right, The Curragh racecourse manager Pat Kelly points out a Dermot Weld set to the Ireland Experience riders.



REGINA WELCH PHOTO

National Steeplechase Association

400 Fair Hill Drive
Elkton, Md. 21921

Phone: (410) 392-0700
Fax: (410) 392-0706

Website: www.nationalsteeplechase.com
E-mail: info@nationalsteeplechase.com

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