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

Fall Championship Season swings into high gear with rich stakes races

The National Steeplechase Association's Fall Championship Season kicks into high gear in October with major stakes races that will go a long way toward determining the year-end champions.

Heading the schedule is the Far Hills Races, whose \$800,000 in purses is the largest ever offered by a race meet. Its 97th running is scheduled for Oct. 21 in central New Jersey.

Far Hills' signature race, the \$400,000 Grand National (Gr. 1), will play a significant role in deciding both the Lonesome Glory Champions Award and the Eclipse Award.

Far Hills also will stage the \$125,000 Foxbrook Champion Hurdle for novices and the \$75,000 Peapack Stakes for fillies and mares. The 2 1/2-mile Foxbrook will be the richest race ever offered for novices.

The International Gold Cup a week later will offer \$395,000 in purses at Great Meadow Race Course in The Plains, Va.

The 80th International Gold Cup will play a big role in determining the year's timber championship. The 3 1/2-mile International Gold Cup offers a \$75,000 purse.

Also on tap is the \$75,000 David L. "Zeke" Ferguson Memorial (Gr. 2) over hurdles at a 2 1/8-mile distance. The rich Virginia meet also will offer flat races on its varied program.

Two Oct. 14 stakes will play a role in determining the timber front-runner going into the International Gold Cup and November timber stakes.

Virginia Fall will offer the \$40,000 National Sporting Library & Museum Cup over timber, and the \$30,000 Genesee Valley Hunt Cup will be run in western New York. The National Sporting Library & Museum Cup will be run at 3 1/4 miles, and the Genesee Valley Hunt Cup will be



Irv Naylor's Rawnag led Scorpiancer over the last fence of the 2016 Grand National (Gr. 1) en route to Lonesome Glory Champions Award as the year's leading earner and the Eclipse Award.

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at 3 1/2 miles.

Also on the Virginia Fall program is a new race, the \$50,000 Randolph D. Rouse Memorial, a handicap hurdle. The race, limited to horses who have not won a stakes race, honors Randy Rouse, a former NSA president and a leader in Virginia jump racing who died

in April at age 100.

Sharing the Oct. 28 date with the International Gold Cup is the Aiken Fall Steeplechase in South Carolina.

Its feature will be the \$20,000 Budweiser Holiday Cup, a ratings handicap at 2 1/4 miles over National Fences.



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NSA launches Trainers section to assist potential new owners

The National Steeplechase Association has inaugurated a new Trainers section on its website, *nationalsteeplechase.com*, to assist potential new jump-racing owners looking for steeplechase horsemen and horsewomen to train their horses.

The voluntary listings allow licensed NSA trainers to describe—in their own words—their philosophy, background, and accomplishments. Each listing is accompanied by a photo of the trainer and contact information.

The listings are an initiative of the NSA's Promotion and Growth Committee, chaired by Dr. Al Griffin. "The NSA is committed to bringing new owners into our sport, and as a part of that commitment we want to facilitate our trainers' efforts to gain new clients," he said.

"After consulting our constituent trainers, it was determined that the best way to further that goal was to allow our horsemen and horsewomen to tell their stories on the *nationalsteeplechase.com* website."

NSA President Guy J. Torsilieri encouraged licensed trainers who are seeking new clients to utilize the website enhancement to introduce themselves to potential owners. "We are encouraged by our trainers' embrace of the website listings, and we hope this effort will help them to build their stables," he said.

Under Griffin's direction, NSA Director of Communications Don Clippinger developed the conceptual structure of the listings and is implementing the trainer profiles on the website.

"Steeplechase racing now has a presence on OwnerView, The Jockey Club's initiative that seeks



Flying Elvis Stable's Diplomat powered through Saratoga's stretch to win the \$150,000 New York Turf Writers Cup Handicap (Gr. 1) on Aug. 24. Diplomat's trainer, Kate Dalton, has a listing in the new Trainers area on the NSA website.

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to attract new owners to Thoroughbred racing and to provide them with sound information to assist their ventures," Clippinger said.

"Potential owners who visit *ownerview.com* will be able to learn about steeplechase racing,

link to our website, and learn about the many talented trainers in our sport."

The link to the Trainers section is at the top of the *nationalsteeplechase.com* homepage. New listings will be added as they are submitted.

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