

# Minutes of the Ad Hoc Awards Review Committee

October 17, 2011

Members: Joseph McMahon, William Wilmot, DVM  
Fund staff: Tracy Egan, Exec. Director, Michael DeMarco, CFO  
NYTB, Inc: Jeff Cannizzo, member NYTBDF Board Member

## DISCUSSION OF AWARD RATE HIKES AND HIGHER AWARD CAPS

Mr. DeMarco presented one dozen scenarios depicting various breeder award rates and caps on breeder awards for an individual horse in a single race.

His study looked at past years, January through August of this year, as well as projections for 2012. After much discussion the committee approved recommending that the full board approve a 50% across the board hike in Breeders' Award rates:

Where sired	Award rate	Win	Place	Show
New York (Registered)		30%	15%	15%
Non-NY		15%	7.5%	7.5%

## CAPS ON BREEDERS' AWARDS

The committee recommends:

- ◆ the full board approve a hike in the breeders award cap for New York sired NY-breds from \$10k(current) to \$40,000.
- ◆ the full board approve a hike in the breeders award cap for non-New York sired NY-breds from \$10K (current) to \$20,000.

The new caps and award rates, once approved by the board, will be effective for all NY-breds racing from January 1, 2012 and going forward.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

There was discussion among attendees about the various merit/demerits of naming contemplated Fund scholarships after famous NY-bred horses. Dr. Wilmot expressed the opinion that squabbles might result from naming the scholarships after a horse. Mr. McMahon expressed the feeling that multiple Eclipse winner and NY-bred Kentucky Derby winner Funny Cide should be so honored if the board decides to connect the scholarship to a top NY-bred.

Executive Director Egan, who would like to initiate a scholarship program for New York college students pursuing equine studies, noted that Funny Cide is UNDOUBTEDLY the most famous NY-bred.

In conclusion, the committee likes the idea of equine scholarships which Ms. Egan says are in keeping with the founding statute to promote “...*the encouragement of interest, including among youth, in the breeding and raising of New York-breds, and to advance and promote interest generally in agricultural pursuits.*” This matter will be discussed further at the Oct. 22 Board meeting.

## PURSE PARITY

As the entire Board voted in favor of purse parity for NY-breds racing on the NYRA circuit, the committee discussed several arguments in support of the board position.

For one thing, NY-bred races generally have fuller fields.

NYTB Exec. Director Jeff Cannizzo presented information purchased from the Jockey Club which shows that, in most conditioned races, there are more NY-breds in the starting gate than open horses in similar conditions.

Here’s a look at one column that compares NY-Bred Maiden Special Weight races with open company Maiden Special Weight races

NYRA Starters								
9-11-2010 through 9-5-2011								
TRACK	Condition	Starters	Track	Condition	Starters	Track	Condition	Starters
SAR	NYB MSW	9.4	BEL	NYB MSW	9.0	AQU	NYB MSW	8.4
SAR	Open	8.5	BEL	Open MSW	7.6	AQU	Open MSW	6.9

The trend of fuller NY-bred fields continues with comparisons of Allowance races and optional claimers, as well as stakes races at Belmont and Aqueduct. The only segment showing open horses filling more starting stalls than NY-breds are the stakes races at Saratoga and starter allowance conditions at Belmont and Aqueduct.

Additionally, the NYTB tracked purses, handle and race conditions from September 22, 2011 though Oct. 13, 2011. This information indicates that NY-breds give a much bigger bang for the buck when comparing handle on NY-bred races and attending purse structure to handle on open races with a considerably higher handle.

The committee recommends that long time Fund Board Member Harry Snyder make the case for purse parity at the Oct. 22 Board meeting to which NYRA Chairman Charlie Hayward has been invited. It’s recommended that Harry mention previous discussion with NYRA and NYTHA to remedy the lack of simulcast revenue to the Fund.

Also, the committee suggested Mr. DeMarco and Ms. Egan discuss with PJ Campo the subject of earmarking purse enrichment in a such a way as to reward horses nominated for the New York Stallion Series.