



Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association, Inc. Minutes

September 26, 2024

**GUEST CALLER: BILL GALLO**

Bill Gallo  
Lucy Goelet  
Liam Bourke  
Larry Smith  
Kathy Neilson  
Cyril Murphy  
Ricky Hendriks  
Sandra Webb

Bill Gallo:

- Shawan course is looking really good. Entries are great. Couldn't split maiden as a result of money. The horses that didn't get in will have a star for upcoming races.
- Purse enhancements \$25,000 added to purses from VA horsemen because we lost race at Colonial.
- Gold Cup will be run at Glennwood Park on Sunday (OCT 27) \$435,000 race card  
All races will be the same with a revision on some distances.  
Maiden Hurdle 2 1/8, Allowance 2 1/8, Gold Cup will stay at 3 1/2
- Colonial Cup is looking to have a big celebration after the races.
- Awards Ceremony in Aiken. Not a formal dinner, less formal on the race grounds.

**I. Committee Report**

Treasurers Report

Sandra Webb

Checking \$1,138.02

Savings \$14,606.73

**II. President's Report**

**Saratoga Cocktail Party**

Ricky Hendriks

- We had it in conjunction with the Board Meeting at the Nat Steeplechase Museum  
The party was catered with a cocktail bar and a great turnout.  
Ed Swyer made a large donation to help cover costs

### **Board Meeting**

- There are some new fences that are coming over from Australia
- Hopefully these fences will be in Camden for schooling

### **Steward's Meeting**

- Good to have horsemen's voice there

### **Equibase Update / No-Shoes**

Larry Smith

- Equibase to add a code (4) for no front shoes

### **III. New Business**

Kimberly Kapacziewski

#### **Trainer feedback requested by Stewards Advisory Committee.**

On September 18, 2024, President Ricky Hendriks held a conference call with the subscribing trainers of SOTA. Eighteen trainers were on the call.

The group discussed the impacts, both intended and unintended, of having future entrants in Grade I stakes races arrive on race meet grounds at least 24 hours prior to their race.

The call generated a lively discussion, with varying opinions and concerns expressed over the details. The group agreed upon two follow-on courses of action:

- (1) Send a survey to current licensed NSA trainers to gather their opinions on the subject.
- (2) Form a five-person SOTA subcommittee to address the concerns raised on the call and in the survey, and then submit formal recommendations to Bill Gallo.

OUTCOME AS OF TODAY: The Steward Adv Committee has communicated with Ricky that they are putting this on pause for 2024.

### **Subcommittee Meeting**

Larry Smith

**Cyril Murphy**

**Joe Davies**

**Leslie Young**

**Larry Smith**

Recommend:

- (1) Step-up Pre Race blood testing.
- (2) System in place to present first aid kit in a secure location

### **IV. Old Business:**

- Jockey colony lacking

**- Scratch day from Wed to Tues**

Race meets asked the NSA to help get their programs out faster. This is a temp try for the Fall.

**- Only one maiden starter this fall.**

**V. Adjourn**