

Racing Committee Minutes

July 8, 2010 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Veitch; Supervisors Barrett, Collyer, Richardson, Wood and Yepsen; Julie Cobello, Backstretch Employee Service Team; Patrick Keyo, Charlie Hayward, NYRA, Press.

Chairman Veitch called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Collyer the minutes of the June 3, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Hayward gave a brief overview of the 2010 Saratoga meet as follows:

Mr. Hayward thanked the Board of Supervisors for their efforts in encouraging the City of Saratoga Springs to honor the franchise agreement with the New York State Racing Association.

Racing Issues

Mr. Hayward said Saratoga had three thousand applications for 1,800 stalls at the track, with 150 trainers applying for stalls for the summer meet.

For the first time, Monmouth Park is experimenting with higher purses than Saratoga offered on Sundays. In the past Saratoga has always had the highest purses; however, Saratoga will still average well over \$600/day. Monmouth will have 50 days with \$1 million a day in purses; with an actual average of \$725/day.

Mr. Keyo said currently Genting is the only successful bidder for the VLT Terminals, and it the largest international casino entertainment company, with a presence in New York and the east coast.

Mr. Hayward said they have appeared to conform with all the requirements of the bid submission process and will continue to be evaluated. Should Genting's proposal satisfy all the requirements, the lottery expects to make a recommendation on or before August 3, 2010.

2009 Saratoga Recap

	<u>Percent Decrease</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>
Attendance	2.1%	23,734

On-track Handle	2.2%	\$3,111,274
All-source Handle	1.7%	\$14,273,257
Total On-track Handle	\$112,005,880	
Total All-source Handle	\$513,837,237	

In 2009, Saratoga Racecourse led the country with an average daily Purse distribution of \$729,100.

2010 Saratoga Race Meet Highlights

- Seven weekends of live thoroughbred racing: Friday July 23rd thru Monday, September 6th
- Thirty-five Graded Stakes Races including 17 Grade 1
 - ❖ Betfair TVG Coaching Club American Oaks on July 24th
 - ❖ The Ruffian Handicap moves from Belmont to replace The Go For Wand on August 1st
- Six Steeplechase Races: One every Thursday of the race meet
- Party at the Spa with post time at 2:45 p.m. on Friday, July 30th and Friday, September 3rd
- Racing UK in Bunberry's Pub
 - ❖ Simulcast wagering on British Racing including York, Goodwood, Ascot, Chester, Sandown, Newmarket, Newcastle and more.

Mr. Hayward said last year NYRA began to produce their own Saturdays at Saratoga television production. Showing on MSG Plus beginning Saturday July 31st from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. The telecasts will include live coverage of 10 graded stakes races with commentary provided by Jason Blewitt, Eric Donovan and Andy Serling.

Saratoga Special Events

Restaurant Row:

- Putnam Market
- Cantina
- Brindisi's
- Grey Gelding

A Restaurant Row staple, **Hattie's** will be located at a new location on-track across the courtyard, near the Clubhouse exchange.

Mr. Hayward said a relationship has been established with Danny Meyer's Hospitality Group bringing Shake Shack burgers, Blue Smoke barbecue and The Paddock Bar to the Saratoga Racecourse.

Give-aways will begin on Thursday July 29th and continue Sunday August 8th, 22nd and September 5th.

The 30th Annual Saratoga Open House will take place on Sunday, July 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The activities for the day will include the following:

- National Steeplechase Association presenting three hurdle races and one on turf
- Islip Horsemen's Association Long Island Drill Team with more than a dozen horses executing intricate pinwheels, circles and V formations
- 7th Annual Mascot Race
- Children's Museum of Science and Technology exhibit including educational and explorative Leaping Lizards and Rocking Reptiles
- Backyard hosting activities including pony rides, inflatable, face paintings, caricatures and petting zoo
- Live music by Captain Squeeze and the Zydeco Moshers
- An array of food and beverages, all to benefit local charities

Saratoga Sponsorships

- **Dunkin Donuts Daily Double** – offered on both early and late doubles each day and featured daily on Talking Horses broadcast
- **Breitling & Northeastern Fine Jewelry** – Breitling timepieces displayed and branded clocks featured at historic locations on the racecourse
- **Betfair TVG** – Betfair TVG Triple Tiara – includes Betfair TVG sponsored races Acorn, Coaching Club American Oaks and Alabama
- **Fasig-Tipton** – Second annual festival of racing on July 31st and August 1st.
 - ◆ Saratoga Selected Yearlings sale on August 2nd and 3rd; New York bred Preferred sale on August 7th and 8th
 - ◆ Contests: “Best Turned-out Horse” for grooms and “Best Turned-Out Filly” for ladies

Best year-round Thoroughbred Racing in the United States

- In 2009, wagers on NYRA races totaled \$.2.2 billion or 18% of the total wagers made on thoroughbred races in the United States

- The Graded Stakes are the highest quality races in the country. In 2009, NYRA ran 113 Graded Stakes or 23% of all Graded States run in the United States.
- The average daily purse distribution is the best indication of the quality of a race meet. In 2009, Saratoga Racecourse led the country with an average daily purse distribution of **\$729,100**. Belmont Park was fourth at \$556,546 behind Keeneland spring and fall meets.
- NYRA is a strong supporter of the New York Thoroughbred breeding program. Approximately 30% of all NYRA races are for NY bred with \$30 million in purses.

Ms. Cobello said at the beginning of the race meet there are approximately 50 backstretch employees, with that number rising to 1,500 during the meet. The Backstretch Employee Services Team is an organization in the backstretch that provides a full range of health and human services to support workers in the barn areas of the racetracks at Belmont, Aqueduct and Saratoga. The program concentrates in three areas:

- Health Benefits
- On-site primary care health clinics
- Counseling services
- The professional bilingual staff offers assistance, advice and training on financial, vocational and educational matters, as well as legal issues.

Ms. Cobello thanked NYRA for their support of the BEST program and supporting the backstretch workers.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Collyer the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom