

International

Fleeting Spirit flies to Darley July Cup win, page 9

THOROUGHBRED TIMES

TODAY



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Saturday,
July 11, 2009

Breeders' Cup to focus on series, track alliances

Breeders' Cup Ltd. has unveiled a very broad framework for the company's future beyond 2009, which would include a more structured series of races leading up to the World Championships and a focus on long-term alliances with several key racetracks.

William Field of the consulting firm Value Partners presented a strategic report at the annual election meeting of the Breeders' Cup board of members and trustees on Thursday in Lexington.

The broad analysis and recommendations come on the heels of a string of changes and challenges since 2006, when the company board of directors was streamlined to 13 members with Bill Farish elected as chairman.

Some elements of the recent tweaks, including the expansion of the World Championships to two days, 14 races, and \$25.5-million in purses, may be reassessed over the next six months as directors and internal committees build upon Field's report in developing a strategic plan.

The Breeders' Cup has had to dip into reserve funds the past few years to cover operational deficits, including a \$5-million shortfall last year, even as World Championships purses have grown from \$14-million in 2005 to \$20-million in '06, \$23-million in '07, and \$25.5-million in '08 and '09. The company is projecting another \$5-million deficit this year, citing steep declines in foal and stallion nominations, but there will not be any changes to this year's event November 6-7 at Santa Anita Park.

The company launched the Breeders' Cup Challenge in 2007 as an incentive offering automatic qualification to the World Championships to the winners of certain prep races, but without providing a cohesive struc-



FARISH

ture to build up to the event. Indeed, establishing a logical bridge between the Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup has been an elusive goal in several adaptations of the Breeders' Cup stakes supplements program.

Part of Field's plan is to establish a series or competition leading up to the World Championships that would involve greater cooperation between the Breeders' Cup and key racetracks.

"One of the recommendations from Value Partners is to try more of a collaborative approach," Breeders' Cup President Greg Avioli said. "If you go back to the various series, not just the Breeders' Cup series but other series that have been attempted over the years, generally it's somebody coming to a racetrack and saying, 'Here's our series; we'd like you to participate. As opposed to, 'Let's design something together that will work for everyone.'

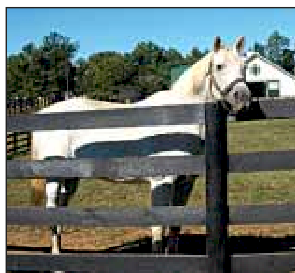
Avioli said the Breeders' Cup would provide substantial funding for the new venture. He also said Field's report does not take a position on whether some of those funds should be re-directed from Championships purses. Avioli did say that the series probably would not be able to encompass all 14 of the current Breeders' Cup race divisions.

The board of directors intends for many of the details, including negotiations with racetracks and horsemen's organizations and a decision on the World Championships format, to come together before the end of the year. Churchill Downs will play host to the 2010 World Championships, but the Breeders' Cup has not decided on a venue beyond that.—*Jeff Lowe*

CORRECTION

The wrong photo was inserted with a story about changes in the Breeders' Cup Ltd. board of directors in Friday's issue of THOROUGHBRED TIMES TODAY. A photo of William S. Farish was run instead of a photo of Breeders' Cup Chairman Bill Farish. THOROUGHBRED TIMES TODAY regrets the error.

Horse of the Year, sire Black Tie Affair pensioned



BLACK TIE AFFAIR

Black Tie Affair (Ire), the 1991 Horse of the Year and sire of 35 stakes winners, has been pensioned due to declining fertility at O'Sullivan Farms in Charles Town, West Virginia.

The 23-year Miswaki horse began his stud career in 1992 at Vinery Kentucky and stood there for six seasons before standing five years at East Stud in Japan. He returned to the United States in 2004 and stood the past five seasons at O'Sullivan Farms.

Black Tie Affair's top progeny include Grade 1 winners Evening Attire and Formal Gold and Brazilian

champion My Tie. He has sired 410 winners from 683 starters who have earned \$56,220,188 through Thursday.

Black Tie Affair's Horse of the Year and champion older male campaign included victories in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) and Philip H. Iselin Handicap (G1) plus five other graded stakes for trainer Ernie Poulos and owner Jeffrey Sullivan.

Black Tie Affair won 18 of 45 career races and earned \$3,370,694. Bred in Ireland, Black Tie Affair is out of the stakes-winning AlHattab mare Hat Tab Girl.—*Tim Nichols*

Black Tie Affair (Ire)'s leading runners

=MY TIE (Brz) (95 f., dam by =Mannsfield [Itly]). 3 wins, \$98,845. Champion 2yo in Brz. **1st** GP Joao Cecilio Ferraz (Brz-G2), etc.

EVENING ATTIRE (98 g., Our Native). 15 wins, \$2,977,130. **1st** Jockey Club Gold Cup-G1, etc.

FORMAL GOLD (93 c., Screen King). 8 wins, \$1,533,600. **1st** Woodward S.-G1, Donn H.-G1, Philip H. Iselin H.-G2, etc.

LICENSE FEE (95 f., Deputy Minister). 16 wins, \$1,200,416. **1st** Sixty Sails H.-G3, Gallorette H.-G3, etc.

WASHINGTON COLOR (94 c., Linkage). 7 wins, \$3,096,246. **1st** Negishi S. (Jpn) (twice), Garnet S. (Jpn), Crystal Cup (Jpn), etc.

=FUJINO WAVE (Jpn) (02 c., Stop the Music). 17 wins, \$2,261,229. **1st** JBC Sprint (Jpn), Tokyo Hai (Jpn), **3rd** Capella S. (Jpn), Tokyo Sprint (Jpn).

DOUBLE AFFAIR (94 g., Nodouble). 20 wins, \$596,090. **1st** Warfield S.-LR, etc.

LORD STERLING (96 g., San Feliou [Fr]). 5 wins, \$575,362. **1st** Joseph T. Grace H.-L, **2nd** Meadowlands Cup H.-G2, etc.

NAT'S BIG PARTY (94 g., Replant). 13 wins, \$563,137. **1st** Independence Breeders' Cup H.-L, etc.

TUXEDO JUNCTION (93 f., Gleaming). 7 wins, \$439,231. **1st** Fairway Fun S.-L, Luisant H., Miss California H., etc.