

TEAM VALOR REVEALS 5 JUDGES WHO WILL DECIDE '16 BERGSTEIN AWARD DENMAN, MCCARRON, MILBERT, VEITCH, WALL TAPPED FOR \$25,000 HONOR IRWIN-SPONSORED WRITING AWARD TO BE PRESENTED AGAIN IN THE FALL

Barry Irwin and his Team Valor International will again honor excellent journalism in 2016 and have lined up a new slate of judges to decide the \$25,000 Stan Bergstein Writing Award.

Legendary racecaller Trevor Denman and Hall of Fame jockey Chris McCarron will join esteemed Turf writers Neil Milbert, Michael Veitch and Maryjean Wall in selecting a winner from a group of finalists compiled by Team Valor. Any story about horse racing that appears in a North American-based publication or website between November 2, 2015 and November 1, 2016 will be eligible for the fifth annual award.

"This is a great group of judges," said Jeff Lowe, Team Valor's media director. "I think the perspectives of Trevor Denman and Chris McCarron are really important to go along with three Turf writers who know their craft and the sport of horse racing so well with their many decades of experience."



Trevor Denman has known Barry Irwin since arriving in the U.S. from South Africa in 1983.

Denman recently stepped down as the voice of Santa Anita Park but will continue to man the announcer's booth at Del Mar. He called many a winner booted home by McCarron, who won the Grade 1 Santa Anita Derby on The Deputy for Team Valor and Gary Barber. He retired in 2002 and later founded the North American Racing Academy, which he represented in attending the 2015 Stan Bergstein Award presentation.

Denman has known Barry Irwin dating back to his arrival at Santa Anita in 1983 from his native South Africa, where he now maintains a small racing stable.

"Barry was one of the first people I befriended when I stepped off the plane and I have followed Clover Racing and Team Valor ever since, especially with the South African connection," Denman said. "I am honored to be part of the judging."

Milbert covered the horse racing beat for the Chicago *Tribune* from 1970 until 2008 and still does freelance work for the paper. He was well acquainted with Bergstein, who lived in Chicago for many years during his time as a harness racing writer, announcer and racetrack executive.

Milbert said "I knew Stan well, going way back to the early 1970s when he maintained a Harness Tracks of America office in Chicago a few blocks from the *Tribune*. If Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing had ever gotten together and decided the sports should have a commissioner I always considered him the perfect candidate. Stan got us a great job that lasted for about five years—he'd do the year-end summary of North American harness racing and I'd do Thoroughbred racing for a beautiful magazine in Italy. Only trouble was neither of us could read what we'd written because they translated it into Italian!"

Veitch has been a Turf writer for the *Saratogian* since 1979. Wall is an author after serving for 35 years as racing writer for the Lexington *Herald-Leader*.