



The Horsemen's Newsletter

November 2007

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LEGISLATURE PASSES SLOTS BILLS *Voters will decide yes or no in November 2008*



JIM MCCUE

MTHA President Richard Hoffberger addressed the crowd at the racing industry's rally on November 2 in Annapolis. Hundreds of horsemen turned out to demonstrate their support for the slots legislation presented in the special session of the state legislature.

The Maryland General Assembly has passed a measure that, if approved by voters in a November 2008 referendum, will allow the state's racing industry to be competitive within the region.

An estimated \$91 million a year would be generated for a purse dedication account, based on legislation given final approval in the Senate on November 18.

That amount would be divided on an 80/20 percentage basis between the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries.

Of the Thoroughbred portion, 85 percent would go to purses and 15 percent to the Maryland-bred Fund.

The slots legislation took the form of two bills—one calling for the referendum, and the other establishing numerous specifics, including sites and formulas for the distribution of revenue.

If approved by voters, the slots measure will be written into law as an amendment to the state constitution.

The House passed its referendum bill by a narrow margin on November 16; the vote was 86 to 52, just one vote above the 85 needed for a three-fifths majority (necessary for a constitutional amendment).

In the early hours of November 18, the House passed its bill

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MTHA's 21st Annual Christmas Party and Awards Ceremony

December 2, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
in the Carriage Room at Laurel

A limited number of tickets are available at the door.

MTHA awards will be presented to:

Outstanding Maryland Owner
ZWP Stable

Outstanding Maryland Trainer
Christopher W. Grove

Outstanding Backstretch Employees

Bowie—Jose S. Ramos,
employed by Nancy Heil

Laurel—Molla Sletzinger,
employed by James W. Murphy

Pimlico—Damon Gladden,
employed by Crystal Pickett



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addressing the specifics; the vote was 71 for and 44 against. Fifteen delegates did not vote, and 11 were absent for the vote.

The bills then went back to the Senate, which passed the referendum bill by a vote of 31 to 13, and the companion bill—Senate Bill 3—by a vote of 25 to 19.

Senate Bill 3 is the measure that will be placed on the ballot next November. Voters will decide yes or no on the package of specifics.

The measure calls for up to 15,000 machines at five locations. The sites are designed to include two existing race tracks—Laurel Park (in Anne Arundel County) and Ocean Downs (in Worcester County). Other sites would be located in Baltimore City, and Allegany and Cecil Counties.

The purse dedication account would receive 7 percent of the revenue from all locations, up to a total not to exceed \$100 million annually.

For the first eight years of operations,

2.5 percent of the revenue would be allocated to a race track improvement fund, available to Laurel and Pimlico on a matching basis. Timonium would receive \$1 million annually for five years, on a non-matching basis, for capital construction and improvements.

Video lottery operation licensees would receive a percentage not to exceed 33 percent.

Revenue is also directed to local impact grants (5.5 percent), the state lottery agency for costs (2 percent) and small, minority and women-owned business (1.5 percent), with the remainder to go to the state's education trust fund.

Also included in the bill are provisions for a minimum of 220 days of live racing at Laurel and Pimlico (unless otherwise agreed to by the tracks and MTHA), and for preserving the Preakness at Pimlico.

See *MTHA President Richard Hoffberger's Thoughts and comment on page 4.*

Laurel cuts back to four-day-a-week racing

Laurel will have a four-day-a-week schedule throughout its winter meet, to run from January 1 through April 12.

The schedule calls for 60 live racing days—15 fewer than normal.

Sunday racing will be eliminated.

Racing will be conducted on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only, with the exception of New Year's Day (which falls on a Tuesday), Martin Luther King's birthday (Monday,

January 21) and Presidents' Day (Monday, February 18).

The track will be dark on the Wednesday before these holidays (rather than the Wednesday after).

"A cutback was absolutely necessary, based on the available purse money," said Maryland Jockey Club president Lou Raffetto.

Mr. Raffetto also indicated that the Pimlico meeting could be shortened.

Fasig-Tipton, Keeneland announce steroid ban for weanlings and yearlings

Fasig-Tipton, the only company currently conducting public Thoroughbred auctions in Maryland, has joined with Keeneland Association in announcing a steroid ban to begin in 2008.

Weanlings and yearlings will be prohibiting from receiving exogenous anabolic steroids (steroids not produced by the horse's own system) within 45 days of sale. Guidelines are as follows:

- The buyer has the right to request, at the time of purchase, that blood be drawn to test for the presence of exogenous anabolic steroids.

- The respective sale company will coordinate testing with a designated veterinarian and report the results of those tests to the consignor and buyer in a timely manner.

- If the sale horse tests positive for exogenous anabolic steroids, the buyer has the right, within 24 hours of notification, to rescind the sale and return the horse to the consignor.

- The buyer will bear the \$500 cost of the test; however, if the test results are positive, the cost will shift to the consignor.

Commission approves sale of Rosecroft

At its monthly meeting on October 23, the Maryland Racing Commission voted to approve the transfer of Rosecroft Raceway to Penn Maryland LLC, a subsidiary of Penn National Gaming Inc.

Purchase price for the harness track in Oxon Hill, Md., is \$20 million. Settlement was expected to take place in late November.

Rosecroft has been owned and operated since 1995 by Cloverleaf Enterprises Inc., a subsidiary of the track's horsemen's group, Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association.

Sale of the track does not alter the terms of the 15-year agreement between Maryland's Thoroughbred and harness industries that was signed in April 2006. The agreement calls for any revenue directed by the state toward purses, including proceeds from slots or subsidies, to be divided on an 80/20 percentage basis.

InCompass offers electronic funds transfer

InCompass is now offering a service that enables horsemen in eligible states—including Maryland—to transfer funds electronically from their horsemen's bookkeeper account to their bank account.

Funds may also be electronically transferred to a horsemen's account at another participating track.

A fee of \$7.50 is assessed to horsemen for each transaction.

Transferred funds are generally available to horsemen on the next banking business morning. Horsemen may also view balances online at any time.

Funds transfer is currently available at the following tracks:

Churchill Downs, Ellis Park, Keeneland, Kentucky Downs and Turfway Park in Kentucky; Laurel and Pimlico in Maryland; Aqueduct, Belmont Park and Saratoga in New York; and Del Mar, Fairplex, Hollywood Park, Oak Tree Racing Association and Santa Anita in California.

For more information visit www.incompass-solutions.com or call (800) 467-7385.

Recreation report

From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.

Basketball

There's still room for one more team in the winter basketball league. If you're interested, call Dan at (410) 802-5798 as soon as possible. Games will be played on Sunday evenings at Meade High School in Laurel, beginning in January.

Poker

Winners of the mock Texas hold'em tournament held October 29 at Bowie included Andy Filling and Russell Clark.

Other participants included Tony

Aguirre, Tracy Campola, B.J. Jones and Edmond Benson.

The next tournament is scheduled Monday, January 15 at Bowie beginning at noon.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: J.D. Brown, Robin Fulco, Gene Gilhooly, Maryland Jockey Club, Butch Morgenstern and Dave Siuta.

Special thanks go to Chris Grove, who has donated many items of warm winter clothing at Bowie.

Bowie Winners Circle

The Bowie Winners Circle, a group for individuals battling addiction issues, meets each Monday from 1 to 2 p.m. in the conference room next to the track kitchen at Bowie.

All are welcome to attend. Free coffee is served.

Lecture series on veterinary topics

The Marion duPont Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Va., has announced another "Tuesday Talks" lecture series. Dates and topics are as follows:

November 27—"Detecting and Treating Lameness," Dr. Nat White.

January 15—"Red Eye in the Morning, Horse Owner's Warning: Equine Eye Care," Dr. David Hodgson.

February 19—"Stem Cell Therapy for Musculoskeletal Injury," Dr. Jennifer Barrett.

Thoughts, from page 4

tive Secretary Wayne Wright's knowledge and drive served as the underpinning for the entire effort, while our lobbyists, Bob Enten and Gerry Evans, fought like tigers in the House and Senate to keep our percentage of the revenue as high as possible.

I am glad to say that the plan that we put forward many years ago was unchanged during this entire process, and we held the course. I think that the industry and the state would have been better served if every group involved in the legislation had done the same.

We all wish that we didn't have the referendum in front of us, and we could be on a level playing field with our neighbors soon rather than later.

However, we are playing the hand dealt to us. Our team played fair and extremely well, and we succeeded in accomplishing as much or more than could have been expected.

/Richard J. Hoffberger,
MTHA President



Horsemen advised of steroid ban expected to begin April 1

All major sports have been dealing with issues involving anabolic steroids, and racing is no exception.

While the issue of anabolic steroids has been percolating in racing, it has generated much controversy. Now there seems to be a concerted effort to eliminate the use of steroids in sales (*see article on page 2*), as well as on the race track.

The Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) appointed a committee of experts to study the issue. Based on the findings of that committee, the RMTC adopted a model rule prohibiting the use of steroids in race horses.

Racing commissions in Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey New York and West Virginia are moving toward implementation of the model rule.

Pennsylvania, which studied the use of steroids through the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, moved to abolish steroid use effective January 1, 2008. The ban already exists in Virginia.

Because it takes approximately 100 days for steroids to clear a horse's system, the start-up date for the ban in Maryland, and in Mid-Atlantic states not already prohibiting steroids, is targeted for April 1, 2008.

Racing Commissions will provide op-

portunities for public comment before taking action on a rule change. The MTHA is well aware of concerns that the ban will raise, including the issue of horses who test positive after a claim.

The MTHA, along with other horsemen's groups, will be working to ensure that the implementation of the new rule proceeds as smoothly as possible, and all associated problems are addressed.

Horsemen are advised to begin planning for the ban, which will include all steroids, with the exception of threshold amounts of Equipoise, Winstrol, nandrolone and testosterone.

/Alan M. Foreman, MTHA Counsel

IN MEMORIAM

Jeanne Begg Clagett, a longtime owner/breeder, died on November 5 at her Roedown farm in Davidsonville. She was 94.

Mrs. Clagett became involved in racing with her first husband, John M. Begg, who died in 1985. She is survived by her husband of 13 years, noted breeder/owner Hal C.B. Clagett.

Cleave Helsing, who worked in the racing office at Maryland tracks for more than 10 years, until 1993, died on October 28 at the age of 67.

Robert Matthew (Sphinx) Flournoy, 76, a longtime placing and patrol judge at Maryland tracks, died October 17. Mr. Flournoy had been retired since 1999.

Lots Salmon Duffey, 96, the Eastern Shore resident who campaigned a small stable of flat runners but was best known as the owner of 1990 English Grand National winner Mr. Frisk, died on October 6.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

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The Horsemen's Newsletter
reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland. Your suggestions are welcome.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Now through April 12
Pimlico April 17 through
date to be announced

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM

(410) 392-5555

December Mixed Dec. 2, 3

Winter Mixed Feb. 4

Two-year-olds in Training . . . May 19, 20
(Entries close Feb. 15)

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Keeneland January Horses of All Ages

Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. . . . Jan. 7-14

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Mixed
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. Jan. 16-19

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Winter Mixed

Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. . . Feb. 10, 11

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company

Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training

Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. Feb. 12

Fasig-Tipton Florida Selected

Two-Year-Olds in Training

Calder Race Course, Miami, Fla.

(859) 255-1555. Feb. 26

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Adena

Springs Two-Year-Olds in Training

Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. March 17

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company

Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training

Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. March 18, 19



MTHA

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November 2007

Thoughts and comment

Since the Maryland General Assembly convened on October 29 for its special session, we have experienced countless highs and lows. Sometimes elation and utter discouragement came within minutes of each other. The outcome, while not everything we had hoped for, leaves us feeling generally positive.

The bill that passed on November 18 will direct almost as much to the purse dedication account as we hoped to receive. The figure could be \$63 million; our goal was \$70 million.

Of course, this figure is based on revenue projections when all slots facilities are up and running and the business is

"mature." First we must clear a major hurdle with the slots referendum to take place in November 2008; after that, it will still take considerable time for the slots revenue to appear.

The efforts of the MTHA's staff and lobbyists during this entire process in the special session has been nothing short of fantastic.

MTHA Counsel Alan Foreman presented our case to the Joint Hearing Committee with clarity, and because of his obvious understanding of the issues was declared by the State Senate an expert on the subject. The MTHA's Execu-

See *Thoughts*, page 3

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