



The Horsemen's Newsletter

April 2008

Volume 18 • Number 4

Random drug-testing underway at all three tracks

The Maryland Racing Commission has renewed its efforts to eliminate drug use among backstretch employees.

Random drug-testing is underway. Tests will continue on a random basis for the foreseeable future.

Individuals with drug-related issues are urged to seek help from the Horsemen's Counseling Program and its coordinator, Bill Borchardt. The numbers to call are (410) 542-4040 or (301) 776-0404. Counseling is provided free of charge.

Mr. Borchardt reminds horsemen that the consequences of a positive drug test are severe:

- A first-time offender loses race track privileges for a minimum of 30 days, and faces a stewards' hearing.

- A second-time offender will be barred from the track for at least eight months to one year; a Racing Commission hearing is required in order for the individual to become eligible for re-licensing.

Training hours

The Maryland Jockey Club announced the following schedule of training hours, effective April 14:

Laurel and Pimlico

5:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.;
8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
(Half-hour break)

Bowie

5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
(Half-hour break)

MTHA to hold election for Board of Directors

The MTHA's election for the Board of Directors, held every three years, will take place again this summer.

All 15 directorships are up for election. Directors will be elected to a three-year term.

A nominating committee will be appointed in May. This committee will develop a slate of nominees to be presented to the general membership at an MTHA meeting in June (date to be announced in next month's newsletter as well as on the Web site, www.mdhorsemen.com). Any member who wishes to run for election should call the MTHA office (at 410-265-6842) and plan to attend the June meeting.

In addition to announcing its nominees at the meeting in June, the nominating committee will receive nominations from the floor. Floor nominations need a verbal endorsement from at least four members and written consent from the nominee. Nominations will also be accepted by presentation of a petition bearing the signatures of at least five members and the nominee.

Ballots will be mailed to all members in early July, with a return deadline scheduled for early August. Results will be announced in early August. For more information call the MTHA office.

Legislative session ends with no action on racing-related issues

The Maryland legislature adjourned for the year on April 7, leaving little impact on racing from its annual 90-day session.

"We knew it would be an uphill battle to secure any kind of major action on behalf of racing," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "After five years of working to secure slots—and passage of the slots legislation in the special session last November—there was a sense among many legislators that the racing-related issues had already been decided."

Added Mr. Hoffberger: "Our concerns about maintaining a competitive racing program while waiting for the

slots program to win final approval in next November's referendum are not a high priority among state leaders right now. The state is faced with a money shortage—there are simply not enough funds to go around."

Among the MTHA's other legislative initiatives was Senate Bill 784, aimed at correcting an anomaly in the slots program that divides revenue between the Purse Account and Maryland Fund on 85-15 percentage basis instead of the traditional 89-11. It passed the Senate on a vote of 43-4 and went to the House Ways and Means Committee, where it was not brought to a vote.



Board actions

Meeting held March 26 at Laurel

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President; Richard J. Meyer, Vice President; Dale Capuano, Phillip L. Capuano, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Arnold A. Heft, Timothy L. Keefe

Members absent: John V. Alecci, Howard M. Bender, William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr., Lawrence E. Murray, John J. Robb, Valora A. Testerman, Katharine M. Voss

Slots referendum

Following a lengthy presentation regarding the upcoming slots referendum and related issues, the board voted unanimously to approve an allocation of up to \$1 million, including an initial contribution of \$300,000, from the Purse Account (telephone account wagering revenue) to support efforts to secure slots in Maryland.

Drug and Alcohol Program

By unanimous vote, the board agreed to continue its support of the Drug and Alcohol Program at the same level as in previous years.

AHC membership

The board voted unanimously to renew the MTHA's membership in the American Horse Council, the major organization providing representation for the Thoroughbred industry in the U.S. Congress.

Budget

The MTHA's 2008 budget was presented and approved.

Committee bulletins

Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- The track has been well maintained.
- There has been a rash of thefts involving hay and feed.
- Efforts are underway to establish an earlier opening time for the track kitchen, which currently opens at 6 a.m.
- The chuck wagon serving food items in the afternoon is very popular.

Pimlico

Backstretch chairman Lori Testerman said the laundry room in the Pimlico Road stable area was recently vandalized.

Health Fairs scheduled in June at all three tracks

Health Fairs, co-sponsored by the MTHA and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, will be conducted free of charge for backstretch workers at the following locations:

Bowie—June 4 (Wednesday), in the conference room.

Laurel—June 5 (Thursday), in the recreation area next to the track kitchen.

Pimlico—June 6 (Friday), in the MTHA office above the track kitchen.

Hours are 8:30 to 1 p.m. each day.

Services, provided by Adventist Health Care, will include lipid profiling, HIV testing, screenings for blood pressure, body fat composition, carbon monoxide and skin cancer, PSA testing, colo-rectal counseling, plus seated massage therapy and more. Health promoters will be on hand to answer questions.

Important note: Cholesterol tests require a 12-hour fast (no food or drink in the 12 hours before the test). HIV tests require pre-approval by a physician.

Individuals seeking HIV testing should visit Dr. Harry M. Harris in the Backstretch Health Center prior to the Health Fair. The Health Center is open Fridays and Saturdays in the track kitchen building at Laurel, and Tuesdays in the First Aid Room at Pimlico. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon at both locations.

For more information call Bobby Lillis at (410) 265-6843.

Pimlico security procedures

The Maryland Jockey Club has announced the following security procedures for Preakness Day and preceding weeks. For more information contact Georganne Hale at (800) 638-1859.

- Starting May 1, all owners, trainers and backstretch personnel will be required to wear their Maryland Racing Commission picture license on their outer clothing at all times.

- Pimlico's Hayward Avenue stable gate entrance will be relocated to the corner of Winner and Rogers Avenues for Black-Eyed Susan Day and Preakness Day (May 16 and 17).

- Hayward Avenue stable area parking on Preakness Day will be restricted to Preakness Day horsemen and other individuals with appropriate parking hangtags and Maryland Racing Commission licenses.

- Rogers Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic on Preakness Day. Access to the stable area is via Winner Avenue from Hayward Avenue, and Woodcrest off Northern Parkway.

- Horse vans will not be permitted access to the Hayward Avenue stable area after 8 a.m. on Preakness Day.

Note: The Rogers Avenue stable area entrance for automobile traffic only will be open from 5 a.m. on May 16 (Black-Eyed Susan day) until 9 p.m. on May 17 (Preakness day). The Hayward stable gate will not be accessible to automobile traffic.

Dubai-based company to purchase Fasig-Tipton

In a surprise announcement on April 10, Fasig-Tipton auctioneering firm disclosed that it has entered into an agreement to be acquired by Synergy Investments, a company based in Dubai. The company is headed by Abdulla Al Habib, a close associate of Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed al Maktoum.

Plans reportedly call for Fasig-Tipton's current management and staff to remain in place.

Fasig-Tipton has been owned since

1991 by a group of investors, with New York horseman John Hettinger maintaining a controlling interest.

The deal still must be approved by shareholders, but Fasig-Tipton chief operating officer Boyd Browning has indicated that a majority of shareholders are in agreement.

The only major Thoroughbred auction company currently operating in Maryland, Fasig-Tipton annually conducts four auctions at Timonium.

Thoughts, from page 4

has been established to educate the public about the benefits of the slots program approved in the 2007 special session of the General Assembly and awaiting voter approval in the statewide referendum next November.

Our funds will go to that organization and its efforts, which are being led by Frederick W. Puddester, a former state official appointed to this task by Governor Martin O'Malley.

The MTHA could be asked to make additional contributions, beyond the \$1 million, as lobbying efforts progress. Any such requests will be put before the board for its consideration.

Maryland horsemen have traveled a long and difficult journey to get to this point. To give the referendum anything less than our wholehearted support would be more than penny-wise and pound-foolish. It would be irresponsible on our part.

/Richard J. Hoffberger,
MTHA President

IN MEMORIAM

James M. Moran, Jr., a longtime owner and proprietor of Elk Manor Farm in North East, Md., died on April 9. He was 55.

Mr. Moran started in the business with his mother, Elizabeth (Betty) Moran, and her Brushwood Stable in 1980. He bred and/or raced numerous stakes winners, including the 2006 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year, Les Arcs.

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to owners and trainers in Maryland.
Your suggestions are welcome.

Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director
(410) 437-4405*

Softball

Softball begins:

- At Laurel on Thursday, April 24 at 6:15 p.m.
- At Pimlico in late May, date to be announced.

Orioles night at Camden Yards

The MTHA's Orioles night at Camden Yards is set for Wednesday, June 18, vs. the Houston Astros. A drawing will be held on June 14 at Pimlico to select the ticket winners. Sign up in the track kitchens. This is a great opportunity to win tickets to see the new Orioles!

Orioles tickets

Mark Dillow and Cathy Karrasch won the first drawing for Orioles tickets.

Throughout the season, the MTHA will conduct drawings for a total of 10 sets of tickets to Orioles games. Each set

includes two box seats and parking.

Three separate drawings will be conducted for the giveaway. Sign-up sheets are posted in the track kitchens.

Individuals who have signed up remain eligible. There's no need to sign up again.

Baysox tickets

The MTHA is distributing free tickets to Baysox games. Sign up in the track kitchens if you are interested. The supply is going quickly.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Kelly Cox, Gene Gilhooly, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Richard Hoffberger, Sean Lillis, Joe Poag and Jerry Trone.

Special thanks to Rachael Grove, who donated many items of children's clothing at Bowie.

RACING SHIFTS TO PIMLICO

Pimlico opened on April 17 for an eight-week meet that concludes on June 7. As always, the highlight of the Pimlico spring meet is the Preakness—set this year for its 133rd running.

Live racing will be conducted four days a week, Thursday through Sunday.

First post for most days is 1:10 p.m., with adjustments on Preakness day (10:30 a.m., May 17), Pimlico Special/Black-Eyed Susan Stakes day (12:15 p.m., May 16), Kentucky Derby day (12:45 p.m., May 3) and Belmont Stakes day (12:45 p.m., June 7).

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Pimlico Now through June 7

Laurel To be announced

Colonial Downs . . . June 9 through Aug. 6

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS

AT TIMONIUM

(410) 392-5555

Two-Year-Olds in Training . . . May 19, 20

Eastern Fall Yearlings . . . Sept. 29-Oct. 1

(Entries close July 9)

December Mixed Dec. 7, 8

(Entries close Sept. 21)

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company

Spring Two-Year-Olds in Training

Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 . . . April 21-24

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company

Two-Year-Olds and Horses of Racing Age

Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 . . . June 17, 18

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July

Selected Yearlings

Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 . . . July 14, 15

Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected Yearlings, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800 . . . Aug. 4, 5

Fasig-Tipton New York Preferred Yearlings, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800 . . . Aug. 9, 10

Fasig-Tipton New York Open Yearlings, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800 . . . Aug. 12

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected/Open Yearlings,
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 . . . Aug. 18-22

**Check the MTHA Web site
for notice of the annual
General Membership
Meeting
to be held in June.**

**Go to www.mdhorsemen.com
and click on Calendar.
Details will also appear in
next month's newsletter.**

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Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 . . . Aug. 18-22

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July

Selected Yearlings

Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 . . . July 14, 15



Final call for Pension Plan registration

April 21 through April 25

Laurel Track Kitchen,
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 28 through May 2

Pimlico MTHA Office,
10 a.m. to noon

**Failure to register
will result in
the loss of your
2007 benefit**

Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2007 will conclude on May 2.

Remaining times and locations are shown at right.

Bring your Maryland Racing Commission Badge and W-2, 1099, or tax return for 2007.

For more information call the MTHA office at (410) 265-6842.

**All backstretch employees—assistant
trainers, exercise persons, grooms,
hotwalkers, stable foremen, trainers,
etc.—are eligible to participate.**



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

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Sagamore History Project

Do you have personal reminders of the old Sagamore Farm?

Kevin Plank, who now owns the famous Glyndon, Md. establishment that was home to Native Dancer, is attempting to preserve the farm's history.

Anyone with items related to Sagamore and its history, memories of visits to the farm, information about people who might have worked there or other Sagamore connections to share, is asked to contact Sue Kenney at the Sagamore History Project, skenney1111@aol.com or (410) 458-1833.

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MTHA Board of Directors

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H. Neil Glasser
Arnold A. Heft

Timothy L. Keefe
Lawrence E. Murray

John J. Robb
Valora A. Testerman

Katharine M. Voss

At the last MTHA Board Meeting, you could sense the sticker shock. How much will it cost horsemen to support the referendum for the passage of slots? I'll admit I felt that way myself when I first heard the figures.

Ultimately, at that meeting, the Board voted unanimously to approve an allocation from the Purse Account of as much as \$1 million, with an initial payment of \$300,000; the necessary funds will come from revenue generated by telephone account wagering.

Generally, board members expressed concern that if slots do not win approval

in November, Maryland racing—as we know it—will cease to exist.

In short, they felt that it's better to spend the money now because if the referendum fails, the dollars saved by not supporting it will have little practical effect on our racing program in the next few years, and if the referendum passes, it will be the best financial investment that Maryland horsemen as a group have ever made.

A 501-C4 nonprofit organization named "For Maryland For Our Future"

See **Thoughts**, page 3