



The Horsemen's Newsletter

October 2009

Volume 19 • Number 8

Ocean Downs first from the gate with slots

Ocean Downs, the harness track four miles outside of Ocean City, is on its way to becoming the first operating slots facility in Maryland.

The Video Lottery Facility Location Commission voted unanimously on September 23 to approve owner William M. Rickman Jr.'s request for 800 video lottery terminals (slots).

Mr. Rickman, a real estate developer in Montgomery County as well as the owner of Delaware Park, has said he hopes to have the Ocean Downs slots parlor up and running by Memorial Day 2010.

Plans call for the renovation of a
See **Slots**, page 2

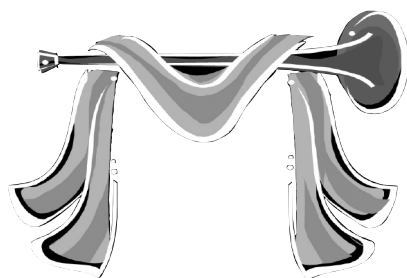
Maryland assets set for auction

Bankrupt Magna Entertainment Corp. plans to auction Laurel Park, Pimlico and Bowie in early 2010, with the stipulation that the buyer keep the Preakness in Maryland.

Various entities have publicly expressed interest in buying the tracks, including David Cordish, whose Baltimore-based Cordish Companies is bidding for a license to build a major casino complex at Arundel Mills Mall, near Laurel.

"It makes sense for us to own the tracks," Cordish told the Baltimore *Sun*. "We will have the resources to revitalize the horse industry in Maryland and return it to its former glory."

See **Auction**, page 3



You Are Cordially
Invited to the
23rd Annual

MTHA Christmas Party
Featuring Our Annual Awards Presentations

November 30 — 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Carriage Room at Laurel Park

Buffet • Open Bar • Dancing

2009 MTHA Awards Will Be Presented To
Outstanding Maryland Owner: Janet L. Wayson
Outstanding Maryland Trainer: Hamilton A. Smith
Special Appreciation: Frederick A. Tallarico
Outstanding Backstretch Employees from
Bowie and Laurel will also be honored.

Cut on the dotted line

I would like to attend the MTHA Christmas Party. I have enclosed \$30.00 for each ticket requested.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Number of tickets _____

x\$30.00=\$_____ Amount enclosed

Please make checks payable to MTHA. Mail before Nov. 20 to MTHA, 6314 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207



Board actions

Meeting held October 14 in Laurel

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President; Richard J. Meyer, Vice President; John V. Alecci, Howard M. Bender, Phillip L. Capuano, William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr., Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Christopher W. Grove, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray, John J. Robb, Katharine M. Voss

Members absent: Dale Capuano, Arnold A. Heft

Jockey fees

The board authorized the jockeys' losing mount bonus program for 2009.

Checks representing \$10 for each mount that finished fourth through last will be sent to all jockeys who rode the majority of their mounts in Maryland in 2009, while competing in at least 50 races at Laurel, Pimlico or Timonium and earning less than \$100,000 at the Maryland tracks.

Distributing the funds in this manner provides meaningful support for Maryland jockeys, and serves to strengthen the racing program.

Annual Party/Awards

The board agreed, by unanimous vote, to accept committee recommendations regarding the annual Christmas Party and Awards (*see page 1*).

MTHA's backstretch programs

Backstretch pension—MTHA directors approved the allocation of \$300,000 from the Purse Account toward the funding of the Pension Plan for backstretch workers for 2010. This is the same amount that has been set aside in each of the last 22 years.

Benevolence funding—Following established procedure, the board agreed to appropriate up to \$60,000 in 2010 to fund the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Benefit Trust, by which the MTHA provides health benefits to trainers and their spouses.

Recreation program—The board agreed to allocate up to \$35,000 to continue funding of the MTHA recreation program through 2010.

Thanksgiving dinner—Funding was approved for the MTHA's annual Thanksgiving dinner for backstretch employees.

Simulcasting extension

The board agreed, by unanimous vote, to approve simulcasting through June 30, 2010.

Financial report

The MTHA's financial report for the period January 1 through September 30, 2009 was reviewed and unanimously approved as presented.

Slots, from page 1

34,000 square-foot building to house the slots at Ocean Downs.

Buddy Roogow, director of the state Lottery Commission, which is conducting background checks on the applicants, noted that Mr. Rickman's slots operation at Delaware Park has "exceeded industry benchmarks."

Penn National Gaming's bid for a site in Perryville (Cecil County) to hold 500 slot machines also appears to be proceeding. A vote on that license was expected by the end of this month.

The Baltimore City Entertainment Group is awaiting financial review be-

fore its application is considered for a slots parlor near the Baltimore stadiums.

Meanwhile, the fate of the Anne Arundel County slots license remains in limbo, as the Cordish Company's proposal for a casino complex with 4,750 slot machines near Arundel Mills Mall is stalled by a local zoning dispute.

Laurel Park is currently not in the running for the Anne Arundel license because owner Magna Entertainment Corp. failed to submit the required deposit last February, but that could change if the Arundel Mills site is ultimately turned down.

Taking care to keep horses healthy

Director of racing Georganne Hale reminds trainers to take special care in order to keep barns disease-free during the winter months.

Recommendations include:

- Clean and disinfect stalls before a new horse arrives.
- Wash your hands in between each horse that you handle.
- Limit the traffic of people and horses coming into your barn.
- Pony people should wipe down their tack after ponying a horse.
- Clean and disinfect horse vans and trailers before shipping horses.
- Take horses' temperatures every day.
- Exercise people should wipe down their tack and equipment before getting on horses in another barn.
- Look for changes in a horse's behavior.
- If a horse appears ill, don't hesitate to call a veterinarian immediately.

Committee bulletins

Health and welfare

Dr. Harry M. Harris, medical director of the Backstretch Health Center, reported that several hundred flu shots were administered, free of charge, in late September and early October.

Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- The racing surface is in excellent condition.
- Potholes remain a problem.
- Trainers should remind employees

to dump manure to the back of the container. Maintenance will not empty containers that are not full.

Backstretch representatives Chris Grove and Linda Gaudet discussed, respectively, problems with clogged drains in wash stalls and ways to encourage general cleanliness.

Laurel

Backstretch chairman Larry Murray described a situation in which the track was sealed in anticipation of rain that did not occur, leading to some serious disruptions in training schedules.



Gagliano to head Jockey Club

James L. (Jim) Gagliano, former executive vice-president of Magna Entertainment Corp.'s Maryland racing operations, has been named to succeed Alan Marzelli as president and

chief operating officer of The Jockey Club. Mr. Marzelli will retire from that position at the end of the year.

Mr. Gagliano left Maryland in June 2005 and since then has served as executive vice-president and chief administrative officer of The Jockey Club.

Thoughts, from page 4

the same thing does not happen to us. A well funded PAC will allow us to continue to support the election campaigns of those state leaders who understand the importance of our industry, and who are committed to helping us build a solid future.

If every Maryland owner or trainer contributed \$100 (or more) to the PAC, we would be well on our way to making this happen.

A hundred dollars is not a lot compared to the expense of keeping a race horse. And a \$100 contribution to the Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC is one of the best investments that any Maryland horseman can make.

*/Arnold A. Heft, MTHA Director,
Legislative Committee Chairman*

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Dempsey McManus, widow of legendary sports broadcaster and Maryland Million founder Jim (McManus) McKay, died on October 15. She was 89. Mrs. McManus and her husband bred and raced horses for many years from their Bellefield Farm in Monkton, Md.

Richard M. Pfrone, a prominent Baltimore restaurateur and former owner, died on October 10 at the age of 66.

Doris A. Riley, a retired exercise rider whose career in Maryland racing spanned more than a half century, died on September 20. She was 79.

Joseph E. Monaban, 73, a longtime jockey's agent, died on September 27.

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.

Auction, from page 1

The schedule calls for potential bidders to submit proposals to Magna by November 2. A 10 percent deposit, as well as details of financial backing, must accompany the plan.

Magna will then provide the bankruptcy court with a "stalking horse" bid on November 9. Names of the other bid-

ders will be presented to the state on December 7, but not released to the public.

The auction will take place on January 8. In addition to reviewing the bids, the state has the right to request that it be allowed to match the winning bid from the auction.

Maryland Million groom's award winners

The MTHA salutes grooms who earned awards for best turned-out horses on Maryland Million Day, September 26 at Laurel Park.

Groom's award winners are listed in race order, followed by the name of the trainer and horse.

1—Jesus Gurrero (Dane Kobiskie, Late Night Lover); 2—Robert Gardner (Gretchen Mobberley, Shining Punch); 3—Veronica Singleton (Rodney Jenkins, Love's Blush); 4—Cheryl Kaufman (Rodney Jenkins, Beau's Trip); 5—Romero Ortiz (John Tammaro, III, Cactus Charlie); 6—Javier Cruz (Timothy Salzman, Kosmo's Buddy); 7—Melanie Martin (Flint Stites, All Giving); 8—Rubin Moralis (Ollie Figgins, III, Big Gulp); 9—Terry Overmeier (William Campbell, Saay Mi Name); 10—Rubin Hernandez (Michael Trombetta, Into the Wind); 11—Ortero Gutierrez (John Terranova, Broadway Producer); 12—Alberto Hernandez (Edmond Gaudet, Swear to It).

Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum, MTHA
Recreation Director. For information
on any of these programs call
Mr. Mangum at (410) 802-5798.*

Bowling

A bowling outing is scheduled for Monday, November 30 at noon at Laurel Fairlanes

Poker

A mock Texas hold 'em tournament is planned for December 14, starting at noon, in the track kitchen at Bowie.

Basketball

The basketball league will begin on

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Park Now through Dec. 19

**FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS
AT TIMONIUM**

December Mixed Dec. 6, 7

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected
Fall Mixed**,
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 Nov. 9
Keeneland November Breeding Stock,
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. . . Nov. 10-22

• Post time changes to 12:35 p.m., as
of November 4.

• Please note that the 12:35 p.m. post
time will be in effect for both days of the
Breeders' Cup World Championships,
November 6 and 7.

• On Thanksgiving Day, November
26, post time will be 11:05 a.m.

Post time schedule



PAC NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Donations to the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Political Action Committee (PAC) go toward the election campaigns of state officials who hold the best promise for our industry.

Your PAC advocates for the entire Maryland Thoroughbred industry, while promoting the interests of horsemen.



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

October 2009



Please make checks payable to
Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC
Send checks to

**MTHA, 6314 Windsor Mill Road,
Baltimore, Md. 21207**

AMOUNT OF DONATION

☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ other

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

By authority Wayne W. Wright, Treasurer

Thoughts and comment

Almost every month, this newsletter contains a solicitation for the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Political Action Committee (PAC). (*See notice at top of this page.*) Some people have responded with financial contributions. But, unfortunately, many have chosen to ignore it.

If you belong to the second category, you probably are thinking: Why should I contribute my hard-earned money to the PAC, when we've already won our battle for slots?

Your support is still vital because—as our neighboring racing states have so clearly demonstrated—the battle over slots revenue never really ends.

When funding from slots begins to boost purses in Maryland sometime next year, we will hopefully enter a new era of prosperity. But the more prosperous we become, the more vulnerable we will be.

West Virginia, Delaware and most recently Pennsylvania have seen their racing industries rise to enviable heights with slots revenue. Now they are each feeling the pinch as their elected leaders have siphoned off some of their funds to fill gaps in the state budget.

Our PAC is a means of ensuring that

See *Thoughts*, page 3

MTHA Board of Directors

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Vice President

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