



The Horsemen's Newsletter

April 2009

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ADW agreements good deal for horsemen, tracks

Maryland's horsemen, fans and race tracks will benefit from account deposit wagering (ADW) agreements reached in early April with Youbet, XpressBet and TwinSpires.

Details of the agreements, involving the MTHA, Maryland Jockey Club and the three ADW companies, cannot be released due to confidential requirements between the parties negotiating the contract.

But MTHA President Richard Hoffberger explained: "Basically, the new agreements adjust host fees and source market fees to reflect wagering patterns on Maryland signals in order to maximize revenues for all parties." Host fees are paid to the track that conducts the live race, while source market fees are compensation to the local industry.

The agreements, to be in effect for two years, also expand the distribution of Maryland's simulcasting signal, of crucial concern for many fans.

Describing negotiations between the racing industry and the ADW companies as the "single most complex economic issue horsemen have ever had to deal with," Mr. Hoffberger continued, "these new agreements reflect an awareness that we're all in this together, and that we must work in concert to grow the business and share the revenues."

Pimlico to close for stabling on June 6

Reminder: Pimlico's stable area will close on June 6, two weeks after the final day of the Pimlico meet.

Legislature corrects formula for division of slots revenue

The Maryland General Assembly revised the slots program during its recent 2009 session, returning the distribution of revenue between the Purse Account and Maryland-bred Race Fund to a formula that has existed for decades.

"Historically, funds have been divided on an 89/11 percentage basis, irrespective of the source," explained MTHA President Richard Hoffberger.

"While this unfortunately became a contentious issue among different segments of the industry, the MTHA considers it important to adhere to the terms of the industrywide agreement that went into effect three years ago," Mr.

Hoffberger continued.

When the 15-year agreement encompassing all aspects of Maryland racing was signed in 2006, the 89/11 formula went unchanged.

The original slots bill introduced by Governor Martin O'Malley's administration in the special session of the legislature conducted in the fall of 2007 contained language that called for the 89/11 split. And the Senate, as well as the House Ways and Means Committee, passed slots legislation with the 89/11 language intact.

But in the waning hours of the spe-

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PAC STILL NEEDS SUPPORT

Our state elected officials have acted favorably on a number of key issues involving the industry. We must do our best to ensure that those who have supported our interests in the past have an opportunity to do so in the future.

Please help by making a donation to your Political Action Committee. Donations will go toward the election campaigns of state officials who hold the best promise for our industry.

The Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC advocates for the entire Maryland Thoroughbred industry, while promoting the interests of horsemen.

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



State takes action to preserve racing

The future of Maryland racing has possibly been assured by legislation passed in the recent session of the Maryland General Assembly and promptly signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley.

The new law gives the state the right of eminent domain over Pimlico, Laurel and Bowie Training Center, as well as the Preakness and all rights associated with it, including the Woodlawn Vase.

Eminent domain means that the state has the power to seize privately owned property while providing compensation to the owner.

It allows the state to step in and avert possible threats to the continuation of racing.

"No one expects the state to immediately go out and take over the tracks," explained MTHA President Richard Hoffberger.

"But the law now virtually guarantees that no developer can take advantage of the Magna bankruptcy to buy the tracks, tear them down, and build shopping malls in their place."

Slots update: Baltimore makes lease agreement

The Baltimore city site made significant progress in mid-April, when Baltimore's Board of Estimates agreed to lease city-owned land near M&T Bank Stadium to Baltimore Entertainment Group. The facility is expected to open in 2011, with comedy shows and music performances along with the casino.

Opposition from the local community could derail plans for the Arundel Mills Mall site. The issue is in the hands of the Anne Arundel County Council, which ultimately will vote on the zoning.

Meanwhile, the Maryland Jockey Club (MJC) has not abandoned its quest for a slots license at Laurel Park.

The MJC's slots application was rejected because it failed to submit the required fee (\$28.5 million) by the February 2 deadline. The MJC continues to seek legal recourse.

David Hayden appointed to Maryland Racing Commission



Governor Martin O'Malley has appointed prominent Maryland owner/breeder David Hayden to the Maryland Racing Commission.

Mr. Hayden, 65, fills the place on the nine-member panel previously held by Jacqui Nigh, who resigned several months ago to accept a post with the Maryland Jockey Club.

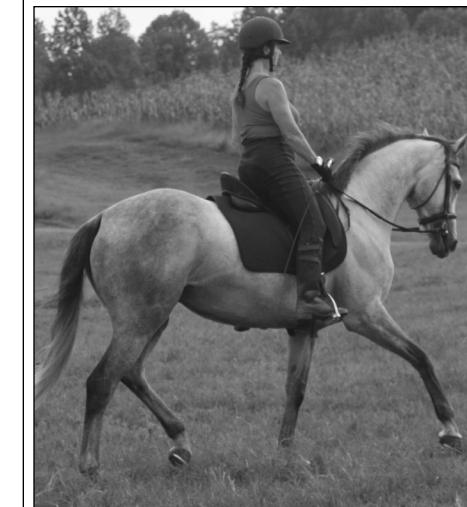
Along with his wife, JoAnn, Mr. Hayden has been involved with Thoroughbred racing since the 1970s. The Haydens maintain two farms in Baltimore County: Dark Hollow Farm and Safely Home Farm. Their most noteworthy success has come as the breeder of

Eclipse Award-winning sprinter Safely Kept. However, on their own or in partnership, the Haydens have bred a total of 35 stakes horses, including 14 graded stakes performers.

Mr. Hayden, who serves on the Baltimore County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, promises not to be swayed from his guiding principles as a member of the Commission. "I believe that I have a good understanding of the business," he said. "Not just from a racing standpoint, but also from the point of view of a breeder. That's something I'll bring to the table."

With the appointment of Mr. Hayden, the Commission has its full complement of members. Others are John Franzone (chairman), David Clegg, Frank Favazza, William Gerweck, John McDaniel, Mary Louise Preis, Charles Tildon and Lou Ulman.

Building a brighter future for retired race horses



The 8-year-old ex-race mare Cloud's Honor, with Kimberly Clark aboard.

Thoroughbred Placement and Rescue, Inc., led by longtime Maryland horsewoman Kimberly Clark, successfully sold or placed more than 150 off-the-track horses in 2008.

"What sets us apart from many other organizations is the fact that we are horsemen taking responsibility for our own retiring race horses," said Mrs. Clark.

The group has recently gained tax-exempt status, as a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

It maintains a popular Web site at www.helpfortbs.org.

Volunteers are being sought to help with all phases of the project, including videotaping of horses in need of new homes.

For more information, call Mrs. Clark at (410) 802-8425 or (301) 579-6898.

Thoughts, from page 4

ing Pimlico and Laurel and operating them as race tracks, as well as maintaining the Bowie Training Center.

Meanwhile, steady progress is being made toward implementing slots. (See article at left).

Years from now, we may look back and say that 2009 and 2010 marked a huge positive turnaround in Maryland racing, and the beginning of a new era of real prosperity.

/Richard J. Hoffberger, MTHA President

IN MEMORIAM

Baird C. Brittingham, a long-successful owner, died March 2 at the age of 77. Outstanding runners for his Lakeville Stable, trained by King T. Leatherbury, included Grade 1 winner Taking Risks.

William E. (Bill) Dixon, 86, who campaigned the highly successful Mea Culpa Stable with his former wife, Phyllis, died March 24. Bill and Phyllis Dixon were honored by the MTHA as Outstanding Maryland Owner in 1996.

Charles Alongi, 96, a trainer in Maryland for more than 60 years, died March 31.

Gerald E. (Gerry) Taylor, a longtime horseman who worked at race tracks throughout the East, died April 15 at age 77. He was based at Bowie for the past 10 years.

Monti W. (Sonny) Sims, a noted trainer and farm manager in Maryland throughout the 1970s and early '80s, died March 6. He was 79. Mr. Sims, who left this state in 1983 to manage Spendthrift Farm, developed millionaire The Very One.

Wilmont D. (Bill) Haun, 87, who trained horses for many years and had a second career in the admissions department at Maryland tracks, died January 22. His daughter, Patricia, manages the Maryland Veterinary Group; her husband, Clayton Beck, is assistant racing secretary at Pimlico and Laurel.

Inez Gilhooly, who owned Schoolyard Stable with her husband Eugene Gilhooly, died January 23. She was 79.

Henry T. Ratbun, a Virginia-based owner/breeder who raced numerous homebreds in Maryland, died March 19. He was 87.

Thomas Marshall (Clyde) Bradley, whose career as a backstretch worker at Laurel spanned 35 years, died February 22 at the age of 60. He was most recently employed by John Alecci.

Phil Gibson, 81, a longtime stable employee who worked for Gregg McCarron, died January 26.

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Correction, from page 1

cial session, when the slots program was being finalized on the floor of the House, three Delegates took action that led to an amendment changing the formula to 85/15.

Legislative leaders subsequently assured the MTHA that the change would be corrected.

Legislation to correct the formula was put forth last year; it passed the Senate, but the House did not act on it.

This year correction bills were introduced in both the Senate and House (SB 911 and HB 1212), with the lead sponsors being Senator Nancy J. King (D., Distr. 39, Montgomery County) and Del-

egate Sheila E. Hixson (D., Distr. 20, Montgomery County). The legislation passed, and is awaiting the signature of Governor Martin O'Malley.

While the difference between an 85/15 split and 89/11 could amount to as much as \$3.2 million (once the slot revenue reaches full potential), the dispute was "not so much about money as principle," said Mr. Hoffberger.

"I sincerely hope that, in the near future, we can work with representatives of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association and develop a joint effort to strengthen the Maryland-bred program."

Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.
For information on the MTHA's
year-round recreation program call
(410) 802-5798.*

Basketball

J.C. Harrington's team coached by William Brooks won the MTHA's 2008 basketball league. Brian Parker's team was the runner-up.

Orioles tickets

The MTHA is once again conducting a series of drawings for Oriole tickets. Backstretch employees may sign up in the track kitchens to be eligible for these great seats.

The first winners were George Francour and Bruce Sider.

Bay Sox tickets

Bay Sox tickets are being distributed at Bowie and Laurel. Sign up in the track

kitchens or call Dan at the number above.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: J.D. Brown, Sharon Clemmer, Mike Dalton, Chuck Foley, Gene Gilhooly, Joe and Pauline Green, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Richard Hoffberger, Ryan Kelly, Claire Monahan, Diane and James Rashid, Ken Schertle, Kathryn Size and Caroline Stauberg.

AHC Forum

The American Horse Council's National Issues Forum, on June 16 in Washington, D.C., will focus on the "Welfare of the Horse," with speakers from various segments of the horse community.

For more information visit www.horsecouncil.org or call (202) 296-4031.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Pimlico.....Now through May 23
Laurel Park is expected to open for racing in August and continue through December

Fair Hill.....May 23

Colonial Downs.....June 5-July 28

Timonium.....Aug. 29-Sept. 7

**FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS
AT TIMONIUM**

Two-Year-Olds in Training.....May 18, 19

Eastern Fall Yearlings.....Oct. 5-7
(Entries close July 13)

December Mixed.....Dec. 6, 7
(Entries close Sept. 21)

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company

Two-Year-Olds and Horses of Racing Age

Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154.....June 16, 17

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July

Selected Yearlings,

Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555....July 20, 21

Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected

Yearlings, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

(516) 328-1800.....Aug. 10, 11

Fasig-Tipton New York-bred

Yearlings, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

(516) 328-1800.....Aug. 15, 16

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company

Selected/Open Yearlings,

Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154.....Aug. 24-28



Final call for Pension Plan Registration

The MTHA's Backstretch Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2008 will conclude on May 8.

Remaining times and locations are shown at right.

Bring your Maryland Racing Commission Badge and W-2, 1099, or tax return for 2008.

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

April 27 through May 1

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

May 4 through May 8
Pimlico MTHA Office,
10 a.m. to noon

**Failure to register will result
in the loss of your 2008 benefit**

Jockey Club offers free tattoo ID services

The Jockey Club has established Tattoo Identification Services, a free resource to help owners identify tattooed but unknown Thoroughbreds.

For legible tattoos, an owner can use a free tattoo look-up feature available at www.jockeyclub.com.

For illegible tattoos or partial tattoos, customer service representatives from the registry will provide free research of a Thoroughbred's identity using the information contained in The Jockey Club's database, including color, markings, and photographs.



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

April 2009

Thoughts and comment

While racing in Maryland is in the midst of many problems, some recent events do indicate a much brighter future. Our elected state leaders, most importantly, are giving us reason for optimism.

There has been a sense of gloom and doom among many horsemen since Magna Entertainment Corp. filed for bankruptcy in March. But while it's certainly not a situation any of us would have wished for, the bankruptcy proceedings and potential sale of Pimlico, Laurel and Bowie do not equate with the tracks' demise.

The Governor and State Legislature spoke loud and clear about their commitment to Thoroughbred racing when they enacted a new law giving the state the right of eminent domain in regard to the tracks (see article on page 2).

This law allows the state to preserve Laurel, Pimlico and Bowie as racing and training facilities and will guarantee the tracks remain just that, race tracks. It is a means of ensuring that we have racing facilities when the slots money arrives.

Several well-qualified individuals have expressed serious interest in buy-

See **Thoughts**, page 2

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