



The Horsemen's Newsletter

January 2010

Volume 20 • Number 1

Rosecroft issues are far from resolved

The MTHA is continuing to press for the horsemen's share of the payment that Rosecroft Raceway owes to the Thoroughbred industry for the rights to simulcast Thoroughbred signals at Rosecroft under the 15-year Cross-breed Agreement that Rosecroft signed in March 2006.

However, the harness track located in the Washington, D.C., suburbs remains mired in legal issues.

The current battle with Rosecroft dates back to January 1, 2009, when the track owner, Cloverleaf Enterprises Inc. (CEI), halted payments on the \$5.9 million it is required to pay annually for the wagering rights and told the Thoroughbred industry and the Maryland Racing Commission (MRC) it would not make such payments, even though Rosecroft continued to simulcast in violation of the Agreement.

In response, the MRC withdrew its consent for Rosecroft to take Thoroughbred simulcasts. Rosecroft countered with a lawsuit against the Commission.

Then in June 2009, Rosecroft filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

CEI is now seeking to expedite the sale of Rosecroft to Mark Vogel, a Washington, D.C.-area real estate developer

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It's time to renew your license

Reminder: A trainer who has horses stabled at any Maryland Jockey Club facility must have a 2010 trainer's license.

Battle lines drawn over Anne Arundel County slots site

The MTHA is not participating in efforts now underway to reverse the Anne Arundel County Council's zoning approval for the Cordish Company's proposed casino at Arundel Mills mall.

However, "our position has not changed," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "The MTHA strongly supports slots at the race track."

The MTHA's overriding concern, of course, is the continuation of a viable live racing program in this state.

It has been clearly demonstrated, in other locations throughout the country, that a race track operating in close proximity to a casino spells doom for the track.

While Maryland's slots program promises substantial revenue to purses and breeders' funds, the state's lawmak-

ers are likely to scale back those percentages if Laurel closes and all that remains is a brief spring meet at Pimlico.

Pimlico can operate successfully with a short meet, because much of its profit is tied to the Preakness.

(See *Maryland Jockey Club President Tom Chuckas's Thoughts and comment on page 4*.)

The issue came to the fore on December 21, when, after months of delay, the Anne Arundel County Council, seeking political cover, voted 4-2 to approve two slots-related zoning measures—one for Arundel Mills mall as well as Laurel Park, and the other for an area that included Laurel Park only.

County Executive John Leopold quickly signed the first bill and vetoed the second, allowing the Cordish cas-

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Maryland Department of Environment focuses on backstretch

Following is a notice to horsemen from Maryland Jockey Club Director of Racing Georganne Hale. For a complete list of backstretch rules, see top of page 4.

Bowie and Laurel's backstretches are under intense scrutiny by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The Maryland Jockey Club will continue to deal with manure storage, and attempt to minimize the contaminated waste water run-off in order to comply with the MDE.

To avoid possible penalties horsemen MUST do their part.

Washing machines are not allowed in the stable areas. All machines must be removed as soon as possible.

We are also asking horsemen to please have their shavings and sawdust bins covered at all times. This means the fresh material bins and also the used material bins.

If the bins are not covered, we will be forced to change our bedding policy and prohibit the use of shavings and sawdust as bedding. That means every horse stabled at a Maryland track will have to bed on straw.

Security will be making rounds, checking to ensure that we are complying with the MDE consent agreement.

The MJC hopes everyone is aware that these issues are serious.



Hoofprints

Perrone earns Eclipse honorable mention

Vinnie Perrone's article on Maryland trainer Dickie Small, published in the February 2009 issue of *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, received an honorable mention in the Eclipse Awards features/enterprise writing category. Mr. Perrone's article was one of only two submissions to receive honors in that category for 2009.

Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference

The eighth annual Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference will take place March 24 and 25 at the Crowne Plaza-Baltimore in Timonium.

Recognized industry leaders will report on the latest research involving horses. Presentations are designed for

owners, trainers, veterinarians and others with a serious interest in equine nutrition.

The conference is a regional event hosted by a number of groups, including the University of Maryland.

For more information visit www.manc.umd.edu.

NTRA Moment of the Year

Voters participating in an online poll conducted by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association overwhelmingly selected Zenyatta's victory over males in the November 7 Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 at Santa Anita Park as the 2009 Moment of the Year.

The Breeders' Cup win, which extended Zenyatta's undefeated record to 14 victories, was selected by 68 percent of the voters among 14 choices.

Jockey Club renews retirement checkoff program

The Jockey Club is once again offering owners and breeders the opportunity to contribute, through a voluntary checkoff program, to Thoroughbred aftercare programs at the time they register their foals in 2010.

The retirement checkoff program, created in 2009, is administered by The Jockey Club, and it raises funds to assist the retirement, retraining and adoption efforts of Thoroughbred Charities of America and Thoroughbred Retirement

Foundation (TRF).

Thoroughbred breeders have the option of selecting one of four graduated amounts (\$25, \$50, \$75 or \$100) to be designated for these Thoroughbred aftercare programs or they can fill in the amount of their choice on the Application for Foal Registration form.

These contributions do not qualify as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. For more information, go to www.jockeyclub.com.

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no, which has already secured a slots license, to proceed.

ganize the effort.

Meanwhile, the bankruptcy of Magna Entertainment Corp., the MJC's parent company, adds greatly to the uncertainty of the situation. An auction of Laurel, Pimlico and Bowie Training Center has been postponed several times.

The zoning question could be put to a referendum in next fall's election, if 19,000 signatures can be collected from county residents.

Wording of the petition has been approved by the county Board of Elections. Half of the signatures must be collected by February 5. If that deadline is met, 30 more days remain to complete the total. The Maryland Jockey Club is leading the petition drive, and Field-Works, a Washington, D.C.-based political advocacy firm, has been hired to or-

Cole, Lake top year-end standings

Robert L. Cole, Jr., led Maryland owners in 2009 with 38 victories at the state's tracks. It was the fourth year in a row that Mr. Cole has topped the Maryland standings. Nationally, he ranked seventh by wins, with 123.

Paula and Tom Haughey's PTK LLC was Maryland's second-leading owner with 25 wins, and Manfred Roos ranked third with 24 wins.

Also for the fourth consecutive year, Scott Lake topped all trainers in victories in Maryland, winning 89 races, 32 more than runner-up John Rigattieri.

In the national standings, Mr. Lake ranked second by wins, his total of 307 topped only by Steve Asmussen.

Tips on rehabilitating neglected horses

A new brochure entitled "Caregiver's Guide to Rehabilitating the Neglected Horse" is available from the American Horse Council.

The printed copy, which contains coupons from Nutrena, Intervet and the AHC, can be obtained by contacting Ericka Caslin of the Unwanted Horse Coalition at ecaslin@horsecouncil.org.

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who owned the track from the late 1980s until he was forced to place the track in bankruptcy in 1991.

Cloverleaf also has filed lawsuits against the MTHA, Maryland Jockey Club and Maryland Horse Breeders Association, alleging that these groups interfered with Rosecroft's ability to secure simulcast signals from various outlets throughout the country.

Meanwhile, Rosecroft has not conducted a live racing program since July 2008, and is operating as an off-track betting facility.

The Maryland Racing Commission granted Rosecroft a 60-day license for 2010, based on Rosecroft's proposal that it would conduct limited live Standardbred racing and simulcasting only. The MRC continues to review whether the site is eligible for a license for the remainder of this year.

Recreation report

From Dan Mangum, MTHA
Recreation Director. (410) 802-5798.

Bowling

Bowling will be held on Monday, February 8, starting at noon. Sign up in the track kitchens.

Basketball

Basketball games take place at Meade High School in Laurel on Sundays from 6 to 9 p.m.

Poker

Winner of the December 14 mock Texas hold'em tournament at Bowie was Jack Reinhardt. The next tournament will be held in April.

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, Alfonso Griffith, Patricia Kelly, Jack Nims and Jerry Trone.

Special thanks goes to those who donated winter clothing.

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas R. Blunt, 84, a longtime owner/breeder, died on December 15.

George G. Dundas, 78, a farrier at Maryland race tracks and farms since 1958, died on December 13 at the age of 78. Mr. Dundas also owned, trained and bred race horses and maintained a commercial layup facility in Phoenix, Md.

Elaine Wheeler, wife of deceased farrier Jack Wheeler, died on November 29.

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Published monthly by the
**Maryland Thoroughbred
Horsemen's
Association, Inc.**

6314 Windsor Mill Road,
Baltimore, Md. 21207;
(410) 265-6842;
Fax: (410) 265-6841;

E-mail: mdhorsemen@erols.com
Web site: www.mdhorsemen.com
The Horsemen's Newsletter
reports on issues and events of interest
to owners and trainers in Maryland.
Your suggestions are welcome.

Thoughts, from page 4

cal power, will have every incentive—and potential ability—to get the law changed and reduce the amount of video lottery terminal (VLT) revenue allocated to purses and the Maryland-bred Fund.

Even though the statute makes monies available from VLT revenues for physical improvements to Pimlico, Laurel and Bowie, the monies are only available on a matching basis. Therefore, if the owner of the MJC wants to make \$2 of capital improvements, he must spend \$1 of his own money for every \$1 he gets from RIFRA (State VLT capital disbursement fund).

Given the extremely limited potential of Laurel to generate operating profit in the future with a 4,750-machine casino at Arundel Mills mall, no businessperson can have any realistic expectation that he would ever get any return at all on the money he would spend for capital improvements. Thus, no rational businessperson would spend any money or make any improvements on the track.

Alternatively, if Laurel were the licensee, it would be required to run 220 days of live racing each year (unless otherwise agreed by the organization representing horsemen), and thus Laurel would have every incentive to support

continuing the statutory allocation of VLT revenues to purses.

Also, if Laurel were the licensee, it would have every economic incentive to maximize the synergies between VLT and racing operations, and make a substantial capital investment in creating truly first-class racing and gaming facilities.

Racing patrons and gaming patrons would share common infrastructure—for example, structured parking, road systems, the building itself—and common amenities, including restaurants, bars and entertainment venues. Thus, the customer experience for the racing patron would be vastly superior to what it could be without VLTs.

Finally, if Laurel were the licensee, there would be tremendous marketing synergies between the gaming and racing operations, allowing racing to benefit from all the marketing dollars generated by the VLT operation.

All the advertising money would be directed toward getting people to come to one venue—Laurel—where they could experience and enjoy VLT gaming and racing. The “Players’ Rewards” program would reward customers for money spent on both VLTs and racing. Thus, the ability to grow the racing business would be huge.

Committee bulletins

Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- The viewing stand is available for use, but the heating system is not yet functioning.
- Potholes throughout the stable area are gradually being repaired.
- Maintenance has been making a

good effort throughout the backstretch.

Laurel

Backstretch chairman Larry Murray reported:

- Maintenance has been doing a good job with the track.
- Snow removal was completed without delay following the major storm in December.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Park Now through April 10

**FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS
AT TIMONIUM**
(410) 392-5555

Two-Year-Olds in Training May 17, 18
(Entries close Feb. 15)

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Winter Mixed
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 Feb. 8

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company
Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 Feb. 16

Fasig-Tipton Florida

Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training
Calder Race Course, Miami, Fla.
(859) 255-1555 March 2

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company
Adena Springs Two-Year-Olds in Training
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 March 15

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company
Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 March 16, 17

Keeneland Two-Year-Olds in Training,
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 April 5

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company
Spring Two-Year-Olds in Training
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 April 19-22



Maryland Jockey Club stable area environmental rules

- Chemicals (especially flammables and combustibles) must be properly labeled, handled and stored.
- Do not dispose of chemicals in any type of drain.
- Chemical/fuel spills and/or leaks must be reported to MJC Security.
- Manure (straw and shavings/sawdust) must be placed in proper bins.
- Manure (straw and shavings/sawdust) and fresh shavings/sawdust bins must be covered.
- All soaps and detergents used in the stable area must be biodegradable.
- Horse wash stalls must be used where provided.
- All types of wash water must be disposed of in a sink or wash stall.
- Areas outside of barns must be swept up, not hosed down.
- Water must not be allowed to run

freely when not in use.
• Hoses must have a functioning nozzle or be turned off when not in use.
• Washing machines are not permitted in the barns.
• Trash must be placed inside dumpsters, not alongside.
• Trash must not be placed in manure bins.
• Dumpsters must be closed/covered when not in use.

Any questions should be directed to MJC Safety and Environmental Director Patrick Wheltle at (301) 470-5435.



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

January 2010

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Thoughts and comment

by Tom Chuckas, President and
Chief Operating Officer of the
Maryland Jockey Club

The Maryland Jockey Club is campaigning vigorously in opposition to the proposed slots facility at Arundel Mills mall. However, anyone who assumes that it's our battle, and ours alone, is seriously misguided. Everyone who owns, trains or breeds Thoroughbred race horses in Maryland has a stake in the outcome.

Without slots at the track, Laurel Park can't possibly survive as a race track with a brand-new, giant 4,750-machine casino 10 miles up the road. No race

track anywhere in America has survived that level of competition.

Even though the Arundel Mills casino will generate purse money and breeders' bonuses in the short run, with Laurel closed there will be few racing days for horsemen and breeders to benefit from that money.

It's important to note that the statutory obligation to race 220 days only applies if Laurel is the licensee.

If the track and the casino belong to two separate entities, then the casino owner, who will have substantial politi-

See **Thoughts**, page 3