



The Horsemen's Newsletter

October 2011

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MTHA Board Votes To Uncouple Entries

During the September 22nd MTHA Board of Directors meeting, members voted unanimously to support changing Maryland's coupled entry rules which will permit the uncoupling of horses in all stakes as well as permit trainers to uncouple horses in non-stakes that do not have commonality of ownership.

The change is in line with other tracks nationwide and is designed to help improve field size thereby providing bettors with additional wagering options and increase handle.

The proposed rule changes must be approved by the Maryland Racing Commission at a future meeting and follow the rule change process before they can be implemented.

For the complete language of the changes see the Board Actions section on Page 2.

2012 Racing Calendar In Serious Jeopardy

Recent overtures by track management indicate that Maryland Jockey Club's parent company StronMJC intends to seek a drastically reduced 2012 live racing calendar at the November 21st Maryland Racing Commission meeting at Laurel Park.

This stance is in stark contrast to the 3-year deal industry leaders negotiated with the Maryland State Legislature in April which was believed to ensure a minimum of 146 live racing days through 2013.

This deal was crafted with the sole purpose of giving the Maryland Thoroughbred industry time to implement a long term solution to save thousands of industry related jobs which would ultimately be lost with an abbreviated live racing schedule in Maryland.

Coupled with an expense contribution from Maryland horsemen of over \$1.5-million, this deal allowed track management to use millions of dollars of annual slots

proceeds designed for infrastructure costs to offset its previously stated anticipated losses and balance its books through 2013.

The arrangement also required the Thoroughbred interests to enter into binding arbitration with Rosecroft Raceway's parent company Penn National Gaming with the intention of reaching a cross-breed simulcast agreement.

This particular condition has the potential to cost Thoroughbred interests millions of additional dollars and is still in effect regardless of the 2012

thoroughbred date request by Maryland Jockey Club.

The date issue is scheduled for discussion at the November Maryland Racing Commission meeting held on Monday, November 21, 2011 at Laurel Park. All horsemen are encouraged to come support your MTHA leaders on this important issue.



LAUREL PARK



MTHA Christmas Party Canceled

Due to the uncertainty facing Maryland horsemen and the state's entire thoroughbred industry, the MTHA's annual Christmas Party celebration has been canceled for the second consecutive year.

"Like last year, we don't know what the future holds," commented MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "We thought we negotiated a fair settlement last spring until 2013 and now we're in the same situation again just like last year. To host a party under these circumstances and with so much uncertainty would not be financially prudent."

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association regrets any inconvenience that may have resulted from this cancellation.



Racing Media Awards \$30,000 In Scholarships

The Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA) will disperse \$30,000 in scholarships to 26 men and women involved in the Maryland Thoroughbred racing industry.

This year's awards, made possible through the generosity and support of equine organizations as well as private donors, brings to more than \$300,000 in scholarships that have been dispensed over the past decade.

All of the scholarship recipients either work on the Maryland backstretch or are employed on a Thoroughbred farm.

Financial support for the MRMA scholarship program is representative of the state's entire Thoroughbred industry, with money coming from the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, The Bender Foundation and the Maryland Horse Industry Foundation.

Other significant funding comes from the Thoroughbred Charities of America and the Higgins Foundation.

The 2011 award winners are:

Alexandra Curtiss is the recipient of the Eddie McMullen Memorial Scholarship and will receive \$3,000.

Lauren Mundy is the recipient of the Lucy Acton Memorial Scholarship for Service and will receive \$3,000.

Dagmar Caramello, Gabby Gaudet, Jermaine Haughton, Kathleen O'Laughlin and Colleen O'Reilly will receive \$2,000 each.

Jenny Hamilton and Sabrina Morris will receive \$1,250 each.

Allen Foster, Mary E. Hamilton and Alexander Suggs will receive \$1,000 each.

Michelle Barton, Ryan Clancy, Cassandra Daney, Meghan Marshall, Kelsey Neitert and Abigail Parke will receive \$750 each.

And Robert Leaf, Malie Lockard, Meghan Mooney, Jennifer Parsons, Jacqueline Savoye, Dylan Smith, Timothy Steele and Rebecca Walters will receive \$500 each.

Hoffberger, Meyer Reelected As Officers



Richard Hoffberger, a lifelong horseman was reelected President by unanimous vote at the MTHA's September 22 board meeting.

Also gaining unanimous reelection was

Rich Meyer, Vice President.

Mr. Hoffberger has been a tireless advocate for horsemen, volunteering countless hours in his efforts on behalf of this organization, and helping to make the MTHA one of the most active horsemen's groups in the country.

Mr. Meyer, an MTHA board member since

1989, serves as chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee. His efforts have led to numerous programs to improve the quality of life on the backstretch.



Mr. Meyer also is president of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, a separate organization that works closely with the MTHA.

A career employee of the Defense Department, Mr. Meyer is a longtime owner, and currently has several horses in training.

Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – September 22nd at Laurel Park

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President, Richard J. Meyer, Vice President, W. Robert Bailes, Christine E. Bricker Dale Capuano, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Chris W. Grove, Arnold A. Heft, Michael F. Horning, R. Larry Johnson, Tim L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray, Katharine M. Voss.

Members absent: Howard M. Bender

Financial Report

January 1 through June 30, 2011 was reviewed and unanimously accepted as presented.

Election of Officers

President Hoffberger and Vice President Meyer's terms as officers were unanimously extended until 2014.

MRMA Scholarship Fund

A \$5,000 contribution to the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund for 2011 was unanimously approved.

Coupled Entries

The Board unanimously approved the following changes to coupling regulations:

- (a) In SF (11) of this regulation, "commonality of ownership" means that the same person, persons, entity, or entities own at least 25 percent of a horse entered in a race and also own at least 25 percent of another horse entered in the same race.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in SF (11) of this regulation, horses shall be coupled for betting purposes if:
 - (1) the horses have commonality ownership; excluding stake races.
- (c) If there is no commonality of ownership, horses trained by the same trainer may be uncoupled for betting purposes in all races; unless the racing association and the trainer mutually agree to couple the horses for betting purposes. Coupled horses must be declared at the time of entry.



Horsemen's Calendar

RACING

Laurel Park Now through Dec. 17

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS

AT TIMONIUM (410) 392-5555

December Mixed Dec. 5

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 Oct. 24-26

Fasig-Tipton November Sale, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 Nov. 6, 7

Keeneland November Breeding Stock, Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 Nov. 6-19



In Memoriam

Hotwalker **Hassan D. Zereshki** passed away on September 13 at the age of 65. Prior to his death Hassan worked for trainer Donald Barr since 1996. A native of Iran, he began his career on the backstretch in Maryland in 1975 working for Alfred Vanderbilt.

Former trainer and Hay deliveryman **Charles Henry "Keet" Brown, Sr** passed away on August 25 at the age of 85.

Larry Saumell, a former rider and representative for the Jockeys' Guild, died October 17 at the age of 54. Saumell served as a regional manager for the Jockeys Guild following his retirement from the saddle and was working as an jockey agent at the time of his death.

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.

The previous edition of the *Horsemen's Newsletter* stated that live racing on Sunday, August 28 was canceled at Timonium because of a washed out surface when in actuality it was canceled because of safety issues of the horses, trainers, owners, bettors, and employees. The track at Timonium was in great shape that day despite Hurricane Irene's deluge due to the hard work of the track maintenance crew.

The MTHA is extremely thankful to those that provide Maryland horsemen with some of the nation's finest and safest racing surfaces.

Race Day Adjunct Bleeder Medications To Be Eliminated

By a unanimous vote at the October 18, 2011 Maryland Racing Commission meeting, commissioners advanced a rule change that bans all Adjunct Bleeder Medications on race days within the state of Maryland.

Adjunct bleeder medications have previously been permitted to be administered to horses as a supplement to the common anti-bleeder medication Salix (Lasix) on race days.

This rule change does not apply to Lasix applications.

This rule change has to follow usual procedures before being implemented and is expected to be enacted in the first half of 2012. This change in furtherance of a new national medication policy that is intended to prohibit the use of adjunct bleeder medications on race day.

The MTHA vigorously supports the therapeutic use of lasix on race day and no change in this policy is contemplated.



Recreation Report

*From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.*

Backstretch Appreciation Day

Thank you to all the backstretch employees and their families that attended this years' MTHA-sponsored Backstretch Appreciation Picnic on Sunday 9/25. Everyone enjoyed music by Carlyle Entertainment, wonderful food catered by Russell Clark and family, and numerous door prizes.

Winners of prizes included: Ron Brown, Francisco Marquez, Warren Lopez, Antonio Guerrarro, Charlene Tapscot, Jose' Daniel, Leonardo Perez, Gustavo Magana, Eraclio Mendoza, and others.

Thank you to Debbie and Mike Edwards of First Impressions who donated knit caps,

shirts, jackets, etc. which were distributed to attendees. Other donors included Ron Louden, Eddie and Linda Gaudet and J.C. Harrington. Thank you all for your generosity.

Basketball

The MTHA Basketball League starts in January. All interested in playing or having a team participate need to contact Dan a.s.a.p. at 410-802-5798.

Donations

The following generous people/companies made donations: All Pro Championships, Gene Gilhooley, Diana Harbaugh Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Scott Lishia, John Marshal, and Tammy Wolfendale.



Due to logistical concerns, The Maryland Racing Media Association had to reschedule its' annual scholarship awards presentation Crab Feast to Nov. 19 at Laurel at 6:30 p.m. For tickets, call Stan Salter at (443) 279-8982.

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starter for legal, financial and practical reasons. Once informed, and the Racing Commission meeting fast approaching and no time to discuss this with the MTHA board, I authorized our accountant, Craig Gregorek, to perform the due diligence on the proposal. Setting aside the legal and practical roadblocks of such a concept, the due diligence confirmed my worst fears--the Plan would cripple the thoroughbred industry and accelerate its demise.

The Stronach Group maintains that their Plan is a "starting point" for negotiations. I have repeatedly advised them that

the MTHA is prepared to work with them to ameliorate their losses and consider changes that will benefit the industry in changing times. To date, they have been unwilling to discuss anything other than their Plan.

I hope we do not have a repeat of the debacle that occurred last Fall. The MTHA will endeavor to work with the track to craft a program that will work for the entire industry. We are committed to do so because that is our job and we are going to do right by Maryland racing and the people who support it every day.

/Richard J. Hoffberger, MTHA President



2011 Backstretch Appreciation Day



Close to 400 horsemen attended and enjoyed the festive atmosphere.

Backstretch workers and their families gathered on the grounds next to the white house at Laurel Park to celebrate MTHA's Backstretch Appreciation Day on September 25.

A great day was had by all at the picnic which is held each year to show gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the Maryland Thoroughbred industry's backstretch community.



No one left hungry as Russell Clark (right) served up Pit Beef, pork and ham.



MTHA

6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

October 2011

Thoughts and Comments

When the Stronach Group appeared before the Maryland Racing Commission in July to obtain its racing license, they advised the Commission that they were not prepared to commit to 146 live racing days in 2012. It was the first indication we had that the Stronach Group might renege on the agreement made last winter to stabilize the Maryland Thoroughbred industry that became the racing legislation passed by the General Assembly in April. As a part of that legislation, operating funds were provided to the tracks and the horsemen were guaranteed a minimum of 146 annual live racing days through 2013.

Two weeks ago, in response to a Racing Commission mandate that the track advise the Commission as to its plans for 2012, the Stronach Group presented me with a plan that would have them conduct a 40 day Pimlico meet for the Preakness, reserve to them 30-40 days in the Fall, give them all ADW revenue, allow them to control the OTB system and lease Laurel and Bowie to the MTHA the rest of the year. Although the rent would be \$1 in 2012, the average annual lease payment would average about \$4.0 million. My response was simple and straightforward--their Plan was a non-

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MTHA Board of Directors

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