



The Horsemen's Newsletter

November 2012

Vol. 22 • Number 10

MRC Votes To Increase Jockeys Losing Mount Fees

After a spirited discussion during a meeting held October 15 at Laurel Park, the Maryland Racing Commission adopted a plan recommended by the Board of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association to increase most riders' losing mount fees.

All losing jockeys—those who finish out of the top 3 spots in a race—will now make \$75 per mount for purses up to \$99,999 instead of a sliding scale that started at \$45 at current purse levels. Losing mounts for purses above \$100,000 will remain \$100, their current level.

The commission vigorously debated whether \$75 was a large enough increase but passed the raise with an amendment requiring the Board to reevaluate the amount of the raise, based on available funding numbers, six to 12 months after it goes into effect January 1.

Under current guidelines, which will continue through the end of this year, winning jockeys earn 10 percent of the purse, while second and third-place riders each earn 5 percent. Jockeys who fin-

ish out of the money are paid on a sliding scale, based on race purses, from \$45 (for \$10,000 to \$14,999 purses) to \$100 (for \$100,000 and up purses). And, at the end of the year, the MTHA also pays a bonus to jockeys earning less than \$100,000.

The year-end jockey bonus is a fund that paid out \$46,000 to 23 riders last year. The MTHA also spends \$1.5 million on worker's compensation for the jockeys, making Maryland just one of four states to do so.

While the horsemen will continue to pay for worker's compensation, the end-of-year bonus will be discontinued starting in 2013. The jockey bonus will be paid for 2012.

In surrounding states, Charles Town, W.Va., pays from \$75 to \$105 to losing jockeys; Parx Racing in Pennsylvania pays \$100, as do tracks in New York. Meanwhile, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs, both in Pennsylvania, and Delaware Park all pay \$75 to losing jockeys in most of their races.



Maryland's Voters Narrowly Pass Expanded Gaming Measure

Following a record setting campaign that saw millions of dollars poured into negative and often misleading advertising by opponents, Maryland voters decided to green light an expansion of casino gambling in the state, as 52 percent of votes cast were in favor of Question 7.

Campaigns on both sides of the controversial referendum were forced to endure hours of early vote returns that showed razor-thin margins after a majority of pre-election polls showed voters narrowly disapproved of expanding the state's casino offerings.

The approval of Question 7 means table games will be legalized at every state slots parlor. Voters in Prince George's County approved the measure, meaning a casino license

there will go out for bid, with location widely expected to be at National Harbor.

The campaign against gambling expansion was led by Penn National Gaming Inc. and its \$42 million of campaign funding designed to protect the company's lucrative racino in Charles Town, W.Va.

Moving forward, Maryland's lottery commission could convene in December to vote to seek bidders for a gaming license in Prince George's County, setting the stage for another battle.

MGM Resorts International Inc. along with Penn National are expected to submit bids. MGM intends to build an \$800-million destination casino at National Harbor in



Continued on next page



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partnership with The Peterson Cos.

Penn National intends to also submit a bid for a casino at Rosecroft Raceway even after their vehement opposition to the expansion of gaming in the state.

The impact on the Maryland racing industry of expanded gaming will be largely positive and the Purse Dedication Account will not be negatively affected by this measure.

Currently, 7% of revenue generated from slots in Maryland (up to \$100-million yearly) is directed toward horsemen and breeders. That 7% is then divided between the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries on an 80/20-percentage basis. The Maryland-bred Fund receives 11% of the Thoroughbred share, and the remaining 89% goes to the Thoroughbred Purse Account.

Under the new legislation, the 7% share would remain intact from five casinos until a new Prince George's County casino is operational; in that case, the percentage would decline to 6% but then be generated from six casino locations. The \$100-million yearly cap would remain intact.

According to nonpartisan, independent analysis from the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), the Purse Dedication Account should see a net positive increase of more than \$13 million over the next five years and over \$10-million annually once all sites are fully operational.

The passage of this legislation signals a big win for Maryland's Thoroughbred horsemen and breeders.

MTHA Secures Services Of An Experienced Immigration Attorney To Assist Horsemen

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has contracted the services of a Bethesda-based immigration attorney, Mara Stein to help trainers and backstretch employees with issues concerning visas, green cards and general immigration issues. The work that Ms. Stein performs will be at two levels. On behalf of the MTHA she will provide general assistance and guidance, and meet with trainers and their employees intermittently at Laurel Racetrack. Specific work that Ms. Stein performs for individuals in processing their work visas will be on a contract basis between those individuals and the attorney, similar to the way other immigration attorneys have provided services in the past.

ed services in the past.

Ms. Stein's office specializes in immigration law. A US citizen, Ms. Stein was born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and is fluent in Spanish. She can work with current cases where other lawyers have started the visa application process. When contacting Ms. Stein on any specific case or application she will be able to tell you if the fee for that service falls within the scope of the work that she is doing for the MTHA, or if there will be a specific charge to the trainer/employee for that work. The (relatively) small fees that the MTHA has contracted for are for general advice and guidance only, and do not include specific applications.



Calendar

Live Racing:

Laurel Park Now-Dec. 31



Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Auctions:

December Mixed Dec. 3

Two-Year-Olds in Training May 20, 21

Eastern Fall Yearlings Sept. 30

Out of State Auctions:

Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale,
Lexington, KY Nov. 6-16

2013 Dates

Keeneland January Horses of All Ages,
Lexington, KY
(800) 456-3412 Jan. 7-11

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company
Winter Mixed
Ocala, FL (352) 237-2154 Jan. 15, 16

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Winter Mixed,
Lexington, KY (859) 255-1555 Feb. 11

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected
Sale of Two Year Olds In Training,
Ocala, FL (352) 237-2154 March 12, 13

Fasig-Tipton Florida Two-Year-Olds in
Training, Boynton Beach, FL



To Everyone Who Donated Materials For Storm Victims In New Jersey

Especially Donna Lockhart for spearheading the effort in filling her horse trailer to benefit the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Also the MTHA thanks our Laurel dentist, Dr. Keechun Hong for donating dental supplies.

In Memoriam

Longtime hotwalker and former Maryland Racing Commission employee **Warren Bailey** passed away in October at the age of 63.

Maryland horsemen **James E. "Cap" Johnson** passed away in early October at the age of 80.

Equine Dentist **Mike Murphy** of Eldersburg passed away in October at the age of 77.



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL HORSEMEN

It is your responsibility to make sure that you have an up-to-date Maryland Racing Commission (MRC) license to have access to all Maryland Jockey Club facilities.

Trainers, please make certain all your employees licenses are up-to-date.

Security will be spot checking at random to verify everyone's badge is current.

To avoid any issues, please renew your license as soon as possible.

If you have any problems renewing your license or need assistance, please contact Diana Pinones in the MTHA office at Laurel Park at (301) 470-5464.



News Clips

Stronach Resigns From Magna International Board

Magna International Inc. announced that Frank Stronach had stepped down from the company's board, effectively putting an end to his leadership position with the auto parts-maker.

According to a report in the Toronto Globe and Mail, the 80-year-old Stronach will remain as honorary chairman of the company that he founded in 1957. The announcement was made at a board meeting as the company announced its third quarter financial results.



Stronach is leaving to pursue a career in politics in his native Austria. He has started a new political party in his home country, which is calling for Austria to drop the Euro.

TPR Launches Retired Racehorse Contest

Thoroughbred Placement Resources, Inc. (TPR) is sponsoring a contest for retired race horses for a grand prize of free board and training at Leighton Farm in Upper Marlboro, Md.

The contest opens on February 1, 2013, and all entries must be submitted by March 31, 2013. Entries will be required to submit photos and video to represent the horse and must include a written description of the horse.

For complete details visit goodhorse.org.



Hawthorne Shippers Banned

Maryland Jockey Club will not accept any horses shipping in from Hawthorne Racecourse or Chicago until further notice due to an unknown outbreak that has the entire Hawthorne stable area under quarantine.

A major concern is that the animals could have contracted equine herpes virus, a highly transmissible disease.

Maryland Racing Commission Seeks Input From Horsemen

The Maryland Racing Commission announced in October the creation of a new task force on the state's Thoroughbred breeding industry chaired by Commissioners David Hayden and Charles Tildon. The group's mission is to explore new initiatives to strengthen and broaden Maryland's breeding program through the development of a stronger and more viable Maryland-bred bonus program.

THE QUESTIONS ARE. . .

If you were given the opportunity to make one major change in the present Maryland-bred Program, what would you change? Why? How would your change strengthen MARYLAND breeding and racing?

Please forward your responses to Task Force Chairman David Hayden, P.O. Box 68, Upperco, MD 21155 or e-mail dhayden@dark-hollowfarm.com.

2013 Preakness Logo Revealed

The Maryland Jockey Club unveiled the 2013 Preakness logo for the 138th running of the \$1 million Preakness Stakes, which is set for May 18, 2013 at Pimlico Race Course.



Rec Report

*From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.*

Thanksgiving Dinners For Backstretch Workers

The MTHA is again continuing its long-standing tradition of offering Thanksgiving dinners at Bowie and Laurel, this year on Thursday, November 22.

Carved turkey dinner, stuffing and all the traditional holiday fix'ins are served free of charge to all backstretch workers in the Bowie and Laurel track kitchens beginning at 8 a.m.

Bowling Tournament

On Monday December 10th we are signing up bowlers for the annual bowling tournament to be held at AMF Laurel Lanes.

Please sign up at the track kitchens or call Dan at (410) 802-5798.

The MTHA will be providing a pizza party and cash awards to the highest male and female bowlers.

Basketball League

The MTHA Basketball League starts on Sunday, January 6 and will run through Sunday, March 3 on Sunday nights from 6 to 9 p.m.

As in years past, the league will be held at Meade High School. The gym will open at 5:45 p.m.

Anyone interested in playing or having a team participate should contact Dan at (410) 802-5798.

Texas Hold'em

The MTHA will sponsor a mock Texas Hold'em tournament in the Bowie track kitchen on Monday, November 12 beginning at noon. For more information call Dan at (410) 802-5798.

Donations

The following generous people/companies made donations: Maryland Jockey Club, Gene Gilhooley, J.D. Brown, Jack Adamecz, Diana Sansosti, Mr. and Mrs. William Hairfield, Tammy Wolfendale, Frank Wright and Greg March.

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6314 Windsor Mill Road,
Baltimore, Md. 21207;
(410) 265-6842; Fax: (410) 265-6841;
E-mail: info@mdhorsemen.com
Website: www.mdhorsemen.com

The Horsemen's Newsletter
reports on issues and events
of interest to owners and trainers in
Maryland. Your suggestions
are welcome.

Our Dedicated Backstretch Workers Can Enjoy A Free

THANKSGIVING DINNER AT LAUREL PARK AND BOWIE

Compliments of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
Served In Both Track Kitchens: Laurel 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Bowie 8 a.m. - Noon



MTHA

6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

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Keefe Named President of Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund

Timothy L. Keefe, one of Maryland's most successful trainers, has been named President of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund (MHAF) effective immediately.

Mr. Keefe was elected unanimously by the MHAF Board of Directors at their Board meeting in early November. He succeeds past President Richard J. Meyer who resigned his post to concentrate on his newly elected duties as President of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.

Mr. Keefe launched his acclaimed training career



in 1993, and has conditioned such runners as stakes winners Celtic Innis, Eighttofasttocatch, Red's Round Table, Frisky Thunder, Anarex and Goferitstutz.

The Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, Inc. is a 501c-4 charitable organization established in 1947 to provide necessary financial assistance to eligible employees actively working at Maryland race tracks and/or Thoroughbred farms. The Fund is supported by starting gate fees, fines levied by the Stewards and by the Maryland Racing Commission, and private donations.

MTHA Board of Directors

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