



The Horsemen's Newsletter

March 2013

Vol. 23 • Number 2

Maryland Takes Step Towards Uniform Drug Reform

The Maryland Racing Commission voted unanimously at its February 19, 2013 meeting to commit Maryland to a regional uniform medication program that seeks to finally align the medication rules and policies and standardize drug testing in the Mid Atlantic States and the Northeast.

The proposed medication policy, the Mid-Atlantic Uniform Medication Program, will unify medication policy and drug testing among New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Massachusetts. The largest concentration of racing on a daily basis in the United States is in this region and, for years, horsemen have been calling for a uniform policy.

The Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, in conjunction with the Association of Racing Commissioners International and the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, has spearheaded this effort.

On February 6, the THA hosted a meeting of officials from each of the racing commissions in the region, THA representatives, race-tracks, leading scientists in the industry, and industry groups including the Thoroughbred Racing Associations, Association of Racing Commissioners International, Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, American Association of Equine Practitioners, The Jockey Club, and National Thoroughbred Racing Association. Representatives from Mas-

sachusetts and Illinois also attended.

The new reforms divide drugs and medications into 2 categories—Therapeutic Substances and Non-Therapeutic or Prohibited Substances.

The group of Therapeutic Substances will be comprised of approximately 24 medications that are recognized as necessary for the routine treatment of illness or injury in the horse. These medications will have withdrawal time recommendations for horsemen and veterinarians as well as dosage recommendations. The testing laboratories will use uniform threshold detection levels for these substances.

Among the medications in this category are clenbuterol, which will have a new withdrawal time of 14 days and a testing threshold to enforce the new restrictions, as well corticosteroids, intra-articular and systemic. Horsemen and veterinarians will be given guidance on the use of corticosteroids, including the recommendation that intra-articular corticosteroid administrations be withdrawn at least seven days prior to a race and that the systemic corticosteroids such as dexamethasone be withdrawn at least 72 hours prior to a race.

For methylprednisolone acetate (Depo Medrol), the recommended withdrawal time will be 21 days prior to a race. Horsemen and vet-

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Pimlico Purses To Rise by 10%

The MTHA and Maryland Jockey Club approved a 36-day spring schedule at Pimlico Race Course, headlined by the \$1 million running of the Preakness Stakes on May 18.

The 2013 spring schedule includes 21 open stakes races with combined purses of \$3.775 million, up \$625,000 from last year.

The purses for both daily and stakes races at Pimlico will increase in 2013. Purses on overnight races will be raised roughly 10 percent across the board. Maryland Jockey Club President Tom Chuckas said the increase "should lead to larger fields and more wagering."

The purse for the May 17 Black-Eyed Susan — featuring 3-year-old fillies — was increased for the second consecutive year, from \$300,000 to \$500,000, in an effort to attain Grade 1 status.

The 10-week meet starts April 6 and concludes on June 1. The Pimlico stable area will be open for training from March 18 through June 10. The current Laurel Park meet will conclude its 13-week run March 30.





Calendar

Live Racing:

Laurel Park Now-March 30



Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Auctions:

Two-Year-Olds in Training May 20-21
Eastern Fall Yearlings Sept. 30
December Mixed Sale Dec. 2



The Baltimore Orioles and Bowie BaySox
Ticket Lottery and distribution will start
approximately at the end of March.
The exact information will be posted in
the track kitchens ASAP.

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MTHA

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



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Rec Report From Dan Mangum, MTHA Recreation Director

Softball Leagues

We are now organizing for our spring and summer softball leagues. Anyone wanting to enter a team or any individual who wants to play please call Dan at (410) 802-5798.

Games will be played on off days in the evenings at 6:00 p.m. and will be played at Laurel Park's Bob Griffith Field.

Donations

The following generous people made donations: Gene Gilhooley, Pat Kelly, Allison Tyler, Michael Cousins, Joe Fonte, Alex Allinson, Waverly Ortega, and Ron Louden. Thanks to all those who donated coats, jackets, sweaters, etc., to help those in need.

Texas Hold'm

A Texas Hold'm Mock Poker Tournament will be held at the Bowie Track Kitchen on April 8 starting at 12 noon. Sign up at the track kitchens.

Immigration Services

The MTHA has contracted the services of an experienced immigration attorney to help trainers and backstretch employees with issues concerning visas, green cards and general immigration issues.

Please contact Diana Pinones in the MTHA office at Laurel Park at (301) 470-5464 for further information and complete details.

Sal Cacciato Passes Away at the Age of 60

The "One & Only" Sal Cacciato, a popular exercise rider, colors man and valet, passed away after a long battle with cancer on February 5.

Sal grew up in the Bronx, New York, and became an exercise rider as a teenager at Aqueduct. While there he became friends with Richard Dutrow and credited one of the highlights of his life in winning the valet's draw for BIG BROWN in the 2008 Preakness and helping his old friend Ricky saddle the winner that day.

An avid music lover and original character, Sal was 60 years old. He will be missed by Maryland horsemen.



Free Easter Breakfast
For Our Dedicated Backstretch Employees
Easter Sunday - March 31, 2013

Laurel, Pimlico & Bowie Track Kitchens
Compliments of Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund

Board Actions



MTHA Board Meeting – February 15, 2013

Members present: Richard J. Meyer, president, Dale Capuano, vice-president, Christine E. Bricker, Linda S. Gaudet, Christopher W. Grove, Richard J. Hoffberger, Michael F. Horning, R. Larry Johnson, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray and Katharine M. Voss.

Members absent: W. Robert Bailes, Howard M. Bender, H. Neil Glasser and Arnold A. Heft.

2013 Budget

The Board approved the 2013 Budget for MTHA. **Voted unanimously.**

Jockey Bonus

The Board authorized a \$10 losing mount bonus to jockeys paid from the Thoroughbred Purse Account for the year 2012, restricted to those jockeys with the majority of their mounts in Maryland, who rode 50 or more horses and earned less than \$100,000 within Maryland.

Voted unanimously.

Pimlico Stakes

This Board accepted the Purse and Stakes schedule for the Pimlico 2013 Spring meet that was agreed between the Purse Committee and track management on February 14, 2013. **Voted unanimously.**

Uniform Medication Rules

The Board endorsed and supported the proposed Mid-Atlantic Uniform Medication Program, including the elimination of

adjunct bleed medications and the administration of Lasix by the Maryland Racing Commission through its designee, provided:

1. The Program not be implemented in Maryland until either the Maryland Racing Commission Laboratory becomes accredited or the Maryland Racing Commission has secured the services of an accredited laboratory to perform drug testing;

2. The Maryland Racing Commission has secured the services of enough qualified personnel who will administer Lasix to ensure uniform administration of the drug;

3. The Maryland Racing Commission agrees to the recommended grace period for the enforcement of the new Corticosteroid guidelines with enforcement to begin on January 1, 2014."

The motion carried 9 for, 1 against.

Voting in favor was: Ms. Bricker, Mrs. Gaudet, Mr. Grove, Mr. Hoffberger, Mr. Horning, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Keefe, Mr. Murray and Ms. Voss.

Voting against was: Mr. Capuano.

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erinarians will be warned not to administer corticosteroids intramuscularly because of the long acting nature of these drugs by that route of administration. It must be emphasized that these specific recommendations are for the safety and welfare of the horse, a prime reason for these changes. There will be a significant grace period prior to enforcement of the new corticosteroid recommendations to allow horsemen and veterinarians to adjust to the guidelines.

Lasix will be the only medication that will be permitted to be administered to a horse within 24 hours of a race. The new reforms will require Lasix be administered by a veterinarian designated by the Racing Commission.

The use of adjunct bleeder medications on race day will also be prohibited. Currently, Maryland, Virginia and Louisiana are the only States that permit the administration of adjuncts on race day for thoroughbred racing. West Virginia, by statute, is eliminating their use. Three harness jurisdictions in the Mid Atlantic permit the use of adjuncts, but their policies must change to conform to the regional compact.

The Program requires that all drug testing in the region must be performed by a laboratory that is accredited to international standards and the RMTC Code. (Maryland is the only racing State in the region whose laboratory is not accredited.) Further, laboratories conducting drug testing in the region will be required to have the latest state-of-the-art technology to permit the Program to be effective. All drug testing in the region will be uniform.

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Board of Directors voted to endorse and support the proposed uniform program the by a vote of 9-1, subject to conditions referenced in the Board Actions section in the *Horsemen's Newsletter*.

The Maryland Racing Commission is expected to spend the next year modifying its existing rules to conform to the proposed regulations. Other states will have to go through the same process before the rules can go into effect.

A new penalty system is being developed to compliment the new guidelines that will allow the industry, the media, our fans and the betting public to differentiate between "therapeutic" medication violations and "doping" offenses. The system will flag repeat offenders and allow regulators to address those who repeatedly violate medication rules and protocols.

Baltimore Casino Progressing

Construction on the new Horseshoe Baltimore casino could begin in April after the project received final design approval from the city's Urban Design and Architecture Review panel.

That puts the \$400 million Russell Street project on pace to open in either the late second quarter or the early third quarter of 2014 if all goes as planned.

The casino's developers, a consortium including Las Vegas casino giant Caesars Entertainment Corp. and Rock Gaming, still need to obtain a building permit from the city's Buildings Department.

Caesars, owner of the World Series of Poker circuit, will bring a circuit event to Horseshoe Baltimore. The first one could be as soon as late 2014 or early 2015.



Backstretch Pension Plan Registration

Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2012 will take place at the following times and locations. Bring your MRC Badge and W2, 1099, or tax return for 2012. For more information call the MTHA office at (410) 902-6842.

March 25 through March 29
Bowie Track Kitchen, Office Next Door,
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

April 1 through April 5
Laurel Track Kitchen,
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



MTHA

500 Redland Ct. - Suite 105
Owings Mills, MD 21117

March 2013

April 8 through April 12
Pimlico MTHA Office, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

April 15 through April 19
Bowie Track Kitchen, Office Next Door, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

April 22 through April 26
Laurel Track Kitchen,
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

April 29 through May 3
Pimlico MTHA Office, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Failure to register will result in the loss of your 2012 benefit



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Your Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC is committed to the protection, promotion and improvement of live Thoroughbred horse racing in Maryland.

We rely on your support. Please consider a donation.

Amount of Donation \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000

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Occupation _____

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*Please make checks payable to Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC. Mail this form and check to:
MTHA, 500 Redland Ct., Suite 105, Owings Mills, MD 21117. By authority David G. Richardson, Treasurer.*

**Maryland law requires contributor to supply employer and occupation for contributions.*