



The Horsemen's Newsletter

May/June 2013

Vol. 23 • Number 4

MTHA Board Supports Maryland-Bred Bonus Program

By a vote of 7-2 with one abstention, the Board of Directors of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association advanced a proposal for a Maryland-bred owner bonus paid from the Thoroughbred Purse Account initially slated to begin in the fall of 2013.

Designed in response to the Maryland Racing Commission's Task Force on Maryland Breeding proposal, the MTHA-endorsed bonus would offer a 25% purse enhancement to owners of Maryland-bred runners who finish first, second, or third in maiden races, allowance races, and claiming races in which a horse was entered for more than \$10,000.

Funding for the program will be split 50-50 between the Thoroughbred Purse Account and the Maryland Fund, which is administered by Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

The proposal comes despite significant financial strains on the Thoroughbred Purse Account in 2014. Under the terms of the widely acclaimed 10-Year deal, which MRC officials describe as "a good deal for everybody" the Purse Account's contributions to The Stronach Group next year could total upwards of \$13 million or more to ensure a 146-day racing schedule for 2014, up from about \$4 million in 2013.

Also clouding the future financial health of the Purse Account in 2014 is the still unknown opening date of Baltimore's Horseshoe Casino. Projections from the new Baltimore facility,

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Laurel Park & Pimlico Receive NTRA Accreditation

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association Safety and Integrity Alliance's review of Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course, completed in April, gives full accreditation to the two tracks.

The lengthy certification process to have Laurel Park accredited for the first time began with the track's completion of a 48-page written application, and continued as Laurel hosted several meetings with Alliance officials. An initial on-site review in January included inspections of all facets of the racing facility, and interviews with track executives, racetrack personnel, jockeys, owners, trainers, stewards and fans. The inspection team was comprised of Mary Scollay DVM; Mike Kilpack of the Organization of Racetrack Investigators (ORI); racing official Richard Lewis; and Mike Ziegler, executive director of the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance.

An additional on-site inspection of Laurel - conducted without advance notice - took place March 20-21. During the follow-up inspection, revised racing protocols at Laurel were confirmed as being in compliance with the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance Code of Standards.

Pimlico had been accredited in the past, and



to be recertified had to undergo a similar process as that of Laurel Park.

"We have worked closely with Laurel Park and Pimlico, its horsemen and the Maryland Racing Commission throughout this process at both facilities," said Ziegler. "In order to achieve accreditation, the MJC and the Maryland Racing Commission have instituted significant improvements in a number of areas that positively impact the health and safety of both its

human and equine athletes. These areas include pre-race exam protocols, track surface maintenance data collection, the post-mortem program, increased reporting to the Equine Injury Database, vet's list protocols, out-of-competition testing and the expected incorporation of the Uniform National Trainers Test into the current Maryland trainers test. With respect to medication rules, the MJC, the Maryland horsemen, and the Maryland Racing Commission are among the nation's leaders in the mission to strengthen and standardize industry medication rules and penalties. The MJC also maintains a first-rate, in-house human healthcare program."

Laurel Park is now the 26th racing facility to receive full accreditation.

Pimlico Security Tightened

In light of the Boston Marathon bombings which killed three and injured more than 260, Maryland Jockey Club is stepping up security measures for all Preakness week activities.

MJC President Tom Chuckas said every facet of security at Pimlico was reviewed during a series of meetings with federal and local law enforcement agencies the day after two bombs exploded in Boston.

Changes announced include the elimination of backpacks, duffel bags, cameras with lenses longer than six inches, cameras with

detachable lenses, and laser lights or pointers on the entire grounds.

Also for the first time, security officers will be wandering — scanning people for metal objects — when fans enter the gates.

The security measures will be in effect on the day of the Preakness, and Black-Eyed Susan day.

As in past years, horsemen are urged to have their MJC badges showing at all times during the Pimlico meet.





Excellent Turnout For MTHA Golf Tournament at Walden Golf Club

Enjoying a day on the green, 57 golfers shared a few laughs, a few tips and a bit of competitiveness while teeing off at Walden Country Club in the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association annual Golf Tournament on Monday, April 22.

The MTHA scramble tournament was won by the team consisting of Ron Louden, Jerry Hroblak, Ed Henry and Don Faltynski. The foursome took home \$200 for their efforts.

Individual awards of \$25 each were won by Shannon Coleman and Joanne Dobson - Closest to the Pin; and Mike Gorman - Longest Drive.

In addition to a great day of golf, food and camaraderie, additional prizes were handed out to the following:

Winner of the Oriole Ticket Drawing: Daniel Orellani. Winner of the Baysox Ticket Drawing: Libby Butts.

The MTHA would also like to express a special thank you to Dan Mangum, Libby Butts, Mary Ball and Maria Rivera for their help organizing this year's tournament.

The next golf outing is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 16. Check future newsletters for details.



Reminder

Injured Jockeys

Jockeys injured during a race at Laurel Park or Pimlico are reminded to see Diana Pinnones FIRST in the MTHA racetrack office for help starting a Worker's Compensation claim through I.W.I.F.

Federal Immigration Reform Potentially Impacts Horsemen

After many months of behind closed-door negotiations, a bipartisan group of United States senators has recently released an immigration reform bill that may have significant industry benefits for Maryland horsemen.

United States Senate Bill S.744 was introduced by Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), and co-sponsored by senators Michael Bennet (D-CO), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), John McCain (R-AZ), Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Marco Rubio (R-FL). The release of this much anticipated and very significant legislation, by the group known as the 'Gang of Eight', has received both praise and criticism from many sources including (but not limited to) President Obama, Senate and House leadership on both sides of the isle, captains of industry, and most prominent main-stream media organizations.

MTHA's Immigration Attorney Mara Stein has been closely following the crafting and release of this important document, and feels that it is the most significant attempt at immigration reform in more than six years. Ms. Stein points out that "unlike years past, House leadership is going out of their way to encourage bipartisan talks, even if they have all not pledged to support the results."

As an immigration attorney and member of our industry, Ms Stein masterfully points out that this 844 page bill "introduces a program that could be extremely important for trainers and stable owners, and fill the gap in our current law, which does not allow grooms and workers to stay in the US for year-round jobs." The bill essentially "will allow businesses to keep foreign-born workers for jobs year round, expanding the H-2B Visa Program (which allows for about 66,000 nonagricultural seasonal workers.)"

To briefly summarize the thrust of this new program, referred to as the W Visa Program, it would admit 20,000 "low-skilled" foreign workers in 2015. In five years, the program could grow to a cap of 200,000. The numbers would

fluctuate, depending on unemployment rates, job openings, employer demand and other data.

The introduction of this bill begins the legislative process, which includes a review by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, a committee that customarily makes corrections, changes and amendments to most legislation, before moving it on to the Senate or House floors.

Ms. Stein also clarified that "there will be much political discourse to overcome, and we have a ways to go, but I am optimistic. While the W Visa Program is similar to the H-2B Program, W Visa workers would earn the same wages paid to U.S. workers or the prevailing wages in the racing/animal caretaker industry, whichever is higher. However, unlike the H-2B visa, W Visa workers could move from employer to employer across states and workers could petition for permanent residency after a year, and eventually seek U.S. citizenship. Under the current system, workers on temporary visas are not eligible to apply for permanent residence while they are in the country as many would like."

Officially short titled as the 'Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act', the entire bill, as introduced, can be reviewed at www.schumer.senate.gov/forms/immigration.pdf.

Additional information and related website links can be found at www.senate.gov/,

<http://social.dol.gov/blog/>, and www.dhs.gov/.



MTHA Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2013
Laurel Park, Ruffian Room
5PM - All Members Invited



A Special Thanks
to Howard & Tammy Wolfendale
for their donation of a Pool Table
for the Bowie Track Kitchen.



Recreation Report *From Dan Mangum, MTHA Recreation Director*

And The Winners Are...

The winners for the Orioles Ticket Packages were: Edmund Benson (Hank Allen), Juan Saloman (Gary Capuano), Eugene Gumbs (Larry Horning), Patty Corrieri (Detention Barn). The next drawing will be held at Laurel on June 8 at noon. Sign-up in the kitchens.

Bowie Baysox Tickets

Baysox Tickets are still being distributed through sign-ups at the track kitchens. The next date for the tickets to be distributed is May 3 at Laurel.

Soccer Tickets

Tickets have arrived for the Quarterfinals of the CONCACAF Gold Cup Soccer competition, to held at M&T Bank Stadium on Sunday, July 21 at 4:00 p.m. Details will be made available shortly for the ticket lottery which will be held in the track kitchens.

MTHA Softball League

We still need additional teams and players to participate in the MTHA softball league. Please sign-up in the track kitchens.

Bowling Tournament

The winners of the April 2nd Bowling Tournament at AMF Laurel Lanes were: First Place: Deion Rich (set of 615 pins); Second Place: Avon Thorpe (set of 602 pins); Third Place: Edmund Benson (set of 546 pins)

We would like to thank everyone who participated. The next tournament is scheduled for June 4 at Laurel Lanes beginning at noon.

Donations

The following generous people made donations: Jeanne Baker, James Boyce, Herb and Miriam Mittenthal and J.D. Brown. Thanks to all for their generosity.

Continued from page 1

scheduled to open in the fall of 2014, were relied upon to provide significant funding to the Purse Account to meet the terms of the 10-Year deal.

To ease concerns about the financial viability of the Maryland-bred owner bonus, MTHA's proposal is dependent upon Maryland Jockey Club agreeing to allow Purse Account over-payments to be carried over into 2015 when cash flow would be vastly improved. This would allow for a purse and/or days cut to be avoided, which is of the utmost important to MTHA leaders.



Calendar

Live Racing:

Pimlico Now-June 8
Timonium August 23-September 2



Fasig-Tipton Midatlantic Auctions:

Two-Year-Olds in Training May 20-21
Eastern Fall Yearlings Sept. 30

Out of State Auctions:

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company June
Two Year Olds & HORA,
Ocala, FL (352) 237-2154 June 18-19

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July Yearlings,
Lexington, KY, (859) 255-1555 July 15

Fasig-Tipton New York
Select Yearlings, Saratoga Springs, NY
(859) 255-1555 Aug. 5-6

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500 Redland Court – Suite 105,
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117;
(410) 902-6842; Fax: (410) 902-6841;
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.



Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – April 29, 2013 – Laurel Park

Members present: Richard J. Meyer, president, Dale Capuano, vice-president, W. Robert Bailes, Christine E. Bricker, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Arnold A. Heft, Richard J. Hoffberger, Michael F. Horning, Timothy L. Keefe and Katharine M. Voss.

Members absent: Howard M. Bender, Christopher W. Grove, R. Larry Johnson and Lawrence E. Murray.

Maryland-Bred Owner Bonus

The Board supported by a vote of 7 to 2 with 1 abstention the following motion:

"Pending agreement by the Maryland Jockey Club to carry forward all Purse Account over-payments from 2013 and 2014 into 2015 at currently scheduled purse levels, the MTHA Board agrees to fund 50% of the following Maryland-bred owner bonus program from the Maryland Thoroughbred Purse Account: A 25% bonus to be paid to the owners of registered Maryland-breds who finish 1st, 2nd or 3rd in all non-restricted maiden and allowance races and in all non-maiden claiming races where the horse is entered to be claimed for more than \$10,000 during the 2013 Timonium and Laurel Park fall meets."

Voting in favor: Ms. Bricker, Mr. Capuano, Mrs. Gaudet, Mr. Glasser, Mr. Hoffberger Mr. Keefe, and Ms. Voss. Voting against: Mr. Heft, Mr. Horning. Abstaining: Mr. Bailes.

Maryland Million

The Board unanimously agreed to provide up to \$100,000 of assistance from the Thoroughbred Purse Account, on a matching basis, with the Maryland Horse Breeders Association and Maryland Jockey Club for the financial shortfall of the 2013 running of the Maryland Million."



Snapshots from MTHA Golf Tournament



Photos By Mary Ball



MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

May/June 2013

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PURSE PROTECTION & RETIREMENT Program



Starting April 4, 2013, an optional \$10 deduction is assessed for the benefit of the Maryland Purse Protection & Retirement Program.

This new program was established to provide an ongoing mechanism to support Thoroughbred rescue and retirement programs as well as to promote Maryland racing by funding the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Political Action Committee. \$6.00 of this deduction is earmarked for THOROUGHBRED RETIREMENT programs and \$4.00 is distributed to the THOROUGHBRED HORSEMEN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE.

A bonus award of \$10 will be paid to owners finishing beyond 6th place, so everyone will have funds available to support the Program.

To easily opt-out of this Program, please visit the MTHA racetrack office from 9 am - 4 pm on race days. For more information call 410-902-6842.

Board of Directors

Richard J. Meyer, *President*
Dale Capuano, *Vice President*

W. Robert Bailes
Howard M. Bender
Christine E. Bricker
Linda S. Gaudet
H. Neil Glasser
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