

## New Testing Laboratory Now In Operation

In Maryland's continuing effort to comply with the Mid Atlantic Uniform Medication and Drug Testing program, which requires the laboratories conducting drug testing for tracks in the Mid Atlantic to be fully accredited, the state's Board of Public Works on February 5th approved a 5-year contract with Truesdail Laboratories of Tustin California. Truesdail Laboratories will perform the analytical analysis of all urine and blood specimens collected from horses competing in Maryland races.

"The implementation of the Truesdail Laboratories contract is another step in the Maryland Racing Commission's comprehensive medication reform policy and its ongoing efforts to provide for the safety of our human and equine athletes and to ensure the integrity of our sport," said Maryland Racing Commission Chairman Bruce Quade.

The implementation of this contract will provide the Maryland racing industry with state-of-the-art technologies to screen, quantitate and confirm drugs and medications administered to horses which exceed the permissive levels allowed by regulation or are not allowed to be present in a horse's system on race day. The services of Truesdail Laboratories began with races conducted at Laurel Park on Saturday, Feb. 8.

With the award of the Maryland drug testing contract to Truesdail, all of the drug testing for tracks in the Mid Atlantic region are being performed by accredited laboratories.

# The Horsemen's Newsletter

March 2014

Vol. 24 • Number 3



## Dance to Bristol Named MD-Based Horse of the Year by Racing Media

Dance to Bristol, the multiple graded stakes-winning sprinter who was among the three finalists in her division for an Eclipse Award, was selected as the 2013 Maryland-based Horse of the Year by members of the Maryland Racing Media Association.

A daughter of Speightstown trained by Ollie Figgins III for owners David and Susan Wantz, Dance to Bristol won seven straight in 10 starts last year at 4, earning \$821,430. Her streak included three graded races in a row in New York—the Bed o' Roses Handicap-G3, Honorable Miss Stakes-G2 and Ballerina Stakes-G1.

## \$100,000 Trainer Bonus Added To Preakness Weekend

Pimlico will debut a \$100,000 trainer bonus on Preakness weekend. Trainers will earn points based on finishes in 15 stakes races May 16-17.

May 16—Black-Eyed Susan (G2), Pimlico Special (G3), Miss Preakness, Jim McKay Turf Sprint, Hilltop, Skipat, Rollicking.

May 17—Preakness (G1), Dixie (G2), Maryland Sprint (G3), Gallorette (G3), Chick Lang, James Murphy, Sir Barton, The Very One.

Trainers will receive points for finishing first (10 points), second (7), third (5), fourth (3) and starting a

horse (1 point) in each race. The winner will earn \$50,000. Other prize money: \$25,000 (second), \$12,000 (third), \$7,000 (fourth), \$4,000 (fifth) and \$2,000 (sixth). Trainers must have started five horses in the stakes combined to be eligible.

The Pimlico spring meet will begin April 3 with live racing taking place four days a week on a Thursday through

Sunday schedule prior to Preakness and then Friday, Saturday and Sunday (plus Memorial Day).

The 35-day meet will end on June 7, Belmont Stakes day.



# MTHA Backstretch Pension Program, A Valuable Perk For Maryland's Horsemen

Retirement benefits for backstretch workers are a reality in Maryland, thanks to a program started by the MTHA in 1988. The Backstretch Pension Fund is derived from monies deducted annually from the Purse Account. Participants do not make individual contributions into the plan.

The Board of Directors of the MTHA annually allocates funds from the Thoroughbred Purse Account to support this program. The plan year 2013 contribution is \$400,000 which is allocated among all participant's accounts for that year.

Sign-ups for the Pension Program are conducted each spring at Laurel Park, Pimlico and Bowie Training Center. At that time, employees must register to receive benefits based on the previous year.

For individual questions regarding your

pension account, please contact Brenda Wright at CBIZ Benefits, at (800) 624-0954 extension 2352.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PENSION PROGRAM

Anyone employed in the care of horses on the backstretch in Maryland, including trainers, are eligible to participate in the program.

Employees must have worked a minimum of 1,000 hours during the specified year in Maryland, and provide documentation to that effect (with a W-2 or 1099 form, or tax return) at time of sign-up.

Benefits become available when the employee reaches the age of 65, or at age 55 with 25 years of service.



Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2013 will take place at the following times and locations. Bring your MRC Badge and W-2, 1099, or tax return for 2013. For more information call the MTHA office at (410) 902-6842.

### April 7 through April 11

Bowie Training Center, Conference Room across from Security Office, 10:30 a.m. to noon

### April 14 through April 18

Laurel Track Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

### April 21 through April 25

Pimlico MTHA Office, 10:30 a.m. to noon

### April 28 through May 2

Bowie Training Center, Conference Room across from Security Office, 10:30 a.m. to noon

### May 5 through May 9

Laurel Track Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

### May 12 through May 16

Pimlico MTHA Office, 10:30 a.m. to noon

**Failure to register will result in the loss of your 2013 benefit.**



## Live Racing:

Laurel Park ..... Now - Mar. 29  
Pimlico ..... Apr. 3 - Jun. 7



## Fasig-Tipton Auctions:

Midlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training ..... May 19-20

## MTHA Golf Tournament: April 28

Spring is right around the corner and that means one thing, the MTHA Golf Tournament is upon us.

Grab your team and mark your calendar for Monday, April 28. The 18-hole scramble tournament will be held at Walden Country Club at 177 Riedel Road in Crofton.

Tee off time is at noon. Entry fee is \$60 per person which includes golf with cart, two drink coupons and numerous cash awards.

Signup by calling MTHA Recreation Director Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798.



## The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published by the  
**MTHA**

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.



**Thank You**

*The MTHA wishes to express a special thank you to David Whitman and the entire track maintenance crew for their phenomenal work during one of the roughest winters in memory!*



## Recreation Report *From Dan Mangum*

### Poker Tournament

A mock Texas Hold'm Poker Tournament is scheduled for Monday, March 31 at the Bowie Kitchen at 12 noon. Sign up at the track kitchens or call Dan at (410) 802-5798.

### MTHA Softball League

Spring is just around the corner and the MTHA is again trying to form a softball league or games for play in the spring and early summer. Please call Dan if you are interested in playing or having a team.

### Donations

The following generous people made donations this month: Bookie Rosemont, James Redding, Fran Burns, Alisa Mutucci, Kaitlyn Cauley, Gene Gilhooley and Mark Doring. Thanks to all who contributed warm clothing to the backstretch during the cold winter months.

### Bowling Tournament

The MTHA Bowling Tournament scheduled for Feb. 24 has been moved to Monday, March 17 at Columbia 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.



The MTHA Racetrack Office is now using a new phone system. To reach Diana Pinones, please dial the following number directly:

**410-902-6844**

## *It's Almost Time For Baseball*



Baltimore Orioles and Bowie BaySox tickets are on their way for 2014.

There may be more tickets available in 2014 to root on the home teams. Look for sign-ups in the track kitchens soon or call Dan for more information.



## *In Memoriam*

Beloved horseman Charles "Duke" Botsford Jr. passed away on Feb. 7 at age 81.

A former U.S. Marine who received an honorable discharge in 1955 with the rank of corporal, Botsford owned numerous Thoroughbreds under the name of Botsford Racing Stable and also worked as a jockey's agent.



## **Losing Bidders Won't Sue Over National Harbor Decision**

The two gambling operators whose Prince George's County casino-license applications were rejected by Maryland's site-selection commission have agreed not to sue over the decision, according to state officials.

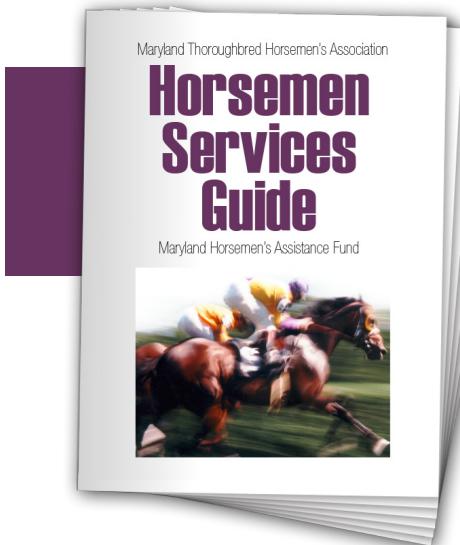
Penn National Gaming and Greenwood Racing each signed a "release and covenant not to sue," clearing the way for MGM Resorts International's proposed \$925 million gambling resort at National Harbor.

MGM was awarded Maryland's sixth and final casino license in December, beating out Greenwood's pitch to build the \$800 million Parx Casino Hotel and Spa in Fort Washington and Penn National's proposed \$700 million Hollywood Casino Resort at the historic Rosecroft Raceway.

The state has returned a half-million-dollar "litigation/protest" bond to each of the two Pennsylvania-based companies—along with their initial licensing fees: \$18 million to Penn National Gaming and \$28.5 million to Greenwood Racing.

MGM will break ground as soon as it receives clearance from the county but won't open until mid-2016, at the earliest.

The lucrative Prince George's County license created the first truly competitive bidding process for the site-selection commission. Maryland's first five casino licenses were awarded to the lone final applicant.



# Horsemen's Services Guidebook Available

Stop by the Racing Office or the MTHA's Racetrack office and pick up the Horsemen's Services Guidebook.

Published by the MTHA, the Horsemen's Services Guidebook is your source for all services offered to Maryland trainers and backstretch workers by the Maryland

Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund and the Maryland Jockey Club.

For more information or to obtain a booklet by mail, please contact the MTHA Business office at 410-902-6842 or email [info@mdhorsemen.com](mailto:info@mdhorsemen.com).



**MTHA**  
500 Redland Court, #105  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

**March 2014**

STANDARD  
PRE-SORT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #15  
WESTMINSTER, MD

## 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  
Christopher W. Grove  
Arnold A. Heft  
Richard J. Hoffberger  
Michael F. Horning  
R. Larry Johnson  
Timothy L. Keefe  
Lawrence E. Murray  
Katharine M. Voss

# Obamacare Registration Assistance Provided



The Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund will assist backstretch workers to learn more about and sign up for health care under the new Affordable Care Act.

For help in English or Spanish, stop in the MTHA racetrack office during live racing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or call Bobby Lillis at 410-902-6843 or Bill Borchardt at 301-776-0404.