



The Horsemen's Newsletter

December 2015

Vol. 25 • Number 11

2016 Racing Calendar Expands To 157 Days

Remember not so long ago when racetracks in surrounding states were expanding their schedules and increasing their purses while Maryland tracks were cutting dates and struggling to compete for horses as its purse structure stagnated?

Maryland trainer Tim Keefe does. He looks around now and sees Maryland as perhaps the only racetrack in the country that isn't pulling back as the Maryland Jockey Club works its plan toward restoring year-round racing to the state.

"I think we are the only place in the country that's expanding," says Keefe, president of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "For so long, we've always seemed to have been fighting for more dates. Now, in 2016, we have 15 more days. That's significant because it shows we are moving in the right direction. The Stronach Group is fully committed."

Tim Ritvo, the Stronach Groups' chief operating officer, said he sees forward progress continuing toward the goal.

"We plan to keep going," he says. "We want 200 days of racing . . . We're looking to host a Breeders' Cup one day and bring back the D.C. International. We think it is all viable if [the business] is run properly."

The winter meet at Laurel Park will run Jan. 1 through

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MTHA Honors To Light Up Christmas Party

It will be a special night, Dec. 7, when the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association honors its best at the annual Awards Ceremony and Christmas Party at the Laurel Park Carriage Room.

The MTHA continues its 27-year tradition of honoring owner, trainer and backstretch workers-of-the-year and has added to the excitement with a lifetime achievement award and two special awards, one for unsung hero and the other for outstanding service to backstretch employees.

History will be made when Maryland Jockey Club owner Frank Stronach is celebrated as Owner of the Year. He will be the first track owner to receive the award; Graham Motion is Trainer of the Year; and trainer King Leatherbury is the lifetime achievement honoree.

The Backstretch Workers of the Year awards go to men and women for their exemplary service to the industry behind the scenes. This year, Rigoberto "Rigo" Salazar is the Pimlico Race Course award winner and Eveline Kjelstrup receives the award for her work at Laurel Park.

The special unsung hero award goes to Joe Miller, who works for the MJC, driv-

ing the horse ambulance; and the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Foundation honors Richard Meyer with an award for outstanding service to backstretch employees. Meyer recently retired after serving as the chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee for 26 years.

Stronach has earned the owner award because of his support of Maryland racing on the track by sending 38 percent of his total entries to Maryland racetracks and for investing nearly \$20 million toward track improvements at Laurel Park and Pimlico in 2015.



Stronach's philosophy is centered on reinvesting in his businesses and his goal is to make horse racing at the tracks owned by The Stronach Group self-sustaining.

"I don't see anyone else around the country trying to do what he's doing," Trainer of the Year Motion says. "We're all lucky he's involved."

Motion's clients are lucky he's involved too. Over the years, the native of England, who trains at Fair Hill, has turned his stable into a national and international success story.

Continued on Page 4 ➔



MTHA
Christmas Party
& Toy Drive
DECEMBER 7 • 6 P.M. – 10 P.M.

Tickets are \$35 each or Ten for \$300 – To Purchase visit www.mdhorsemen.com, stop in the MTHA Office or call 410-902-6844

2016 Maryland Racing Calendar

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Laurel Park (129)
Timonium (7)
Pimlico (28)

→ 2016 Racing Days, Continued from Page 1

Feb. 15, take a three-week break and then return to run March 11 through May 8.

The meet will offer 20 stakes with purses totaling \$1.95 million. It will be highlighted by the \$300,000 Barbara Fritchie G2 Stakes and the \$250,000 General George G3 Handicap.

Adding a new dimension to the winter meet is the designation of the April 9 \$100,000 Federico Tesio Stakes as a "Win & You're In" for the May 21 \$1.5 million G1 Preakness Stakes and the \$100,000 Weber City Miss Stakes as a "Win & You're In" for the May 20 \$250,000 G2 Black-Eyed Susan.

Pimlico will begin its 28-day meet that includes the Preakness May 12 and run through June 26.

Laurel resumes live racing July 1 and will run through Dec. 31, except for the Aug. 26-Sept. 5 break, when the Timonium Fairgrounds is in operation.

The total MJC schedule adds up to 157 days. To those who remember Maryland racing a decade or two ago a total of 164 days [including the Timonium dates] may not seem like much.

In 1986 Maryland had 286 days of racing and MJC chief operating officer Doug Ilig recalled there were still about 220 days in 1997, before Maryland agreed not to compete against Colonial Downs in Virginia during the summer. Since then the number of racing days dwindled to a low of 142 in 2013, according to the MJC's 2015 Media Guide.

But Keefe adds perspective when looking at the big picture.

"I don't think we're ever going to see 250 again," Keefe says. "But everyone is excited because we're going in the right direction."

CONTINUE READING →

HORSEMEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM **2016 Doctor's Schedule:**



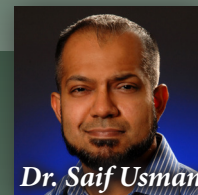
Dr. Frank Dawson

Monday, Jan. 4, Monday, Jan. 11
 Friday, Jan. 15, Monday, Jan. 18
 Monday, Jan. 25, Monday, Feb. 1
 Monday, Feb. 8, Monday, Feb. 15
 Friday, Mar. 11, Friday, Apr. 8
 Saturday, Apr. 9, Sunday, Apr. 10
 Saturday, Apr. 16, Sunday, Apr. 17



Dr. Kelly Ryan

Friday, Jan. 1, Friday, Jan. 8
 Sunday, Jan. 10, Saturday, Jan. 23
 Sunday, Jan. 24, Friday, Jan. 29
 Friday, Feb. 5, Saturday, Feb. 6
 Sunday, Feb. 7, Friday, Feb. 12
 Friday, Mar. 18, Saturday, Mar. 19
 Friday, Mar. 25, Friday, Apr. 1
 Sunday, April 3, Friday, April 15
 Friday, Apr. 22, Friday, Apr. 29
 Saturday, Apr. 30,



Dr. Saif Usman

Saturday, Jan. 2, Saturday, Jan. 16
 Sunday, Jan. 17, Sunday, Jan. 31
 Sunday, Feb. 14, Sunday, Mar. 13
 Sunday, Mar. 20, Saturday, Apr. 2
 Saturday, Apr. 23, Sunday, Apr. 24



Dr. Jeffrey Mayer

Sunday, Jan. 3, Saturday, Jan. 9
 Friday, Jan. 22, Saturday, Jan. 30
 Saturday, Feb. 13, Saturday, Mar. 12
 Saturday, Mar. 26

Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – November 6, 2015 – Laurel Park

Members present: Timothy L. Keefe (President), Linda S. Gaudet (Vice President), R. Larry Johnson (Vice President), Michael F. Horning (Treasurer), Katharine M. Voss (Secretary), A. Ferris Allen, Christine E. Bricker, Dale Capuano, Ellen M. Charles, JoAnn Hayden, Robert T. Manfuso, H. Graham Motion, Lawrence E. Murray, Charles J. Reed and Michael J. Trombetta.

Members absent: None.

2016 Racing Calendar

The Board unanimously agreed to a one-year modification of the 10 Year Deal to establish a set fee of \$5.2-million in 2016 for the purchase of additional racing days and agreed to a 2016 racing calendar that consists of 157 racing dates at Laurel Park and Pimlico with the stipulation that the schedule may be adjusted up or down based on available Purse funds.

Christmas Party

The Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Awards committee to recognize Frank Stronach as Outstanding Owner, H. Graham Motion as Outstanding Trainer and Eveline Kjelstrup and Rigoberto Salazar as Backstretch Workers of the Year.

In addition the Board voted unanimously to create two additional awards for 2015, an Unsung Hero Award to Joe Miller and Special Lifetime Achievement Award to King T. Leatherbury.

Transport Van

The Board unanimously approved all expenses related to the purchase of an 11-person transport van and the operation of a shuttle service for backstretch workers operated by MTHA.

Recreation Program

The Board unanimously appropriated up to \$45,000 to extend the Recreation Program through December 31.

Backstretch Pension Plan

The Board unanimously appropriated \$400,000 from the Thoroughbred Purse Account for the 2015 contribution to the Backstretch Employees Pension Plan pending Maryland Racing Commission approval.

Benevolence

Following established procedure, the Board unanimously approved up to \$65,000 in 2016 to fund the Benefit Trust, by which the MTHA provides health benefits to trainers and their spouses.

Jockey Worker's Compensation Insurance

The Board voted unanimously to approve a contribution from the Thoroughbred Purse Account to fund the balance of the Jockey Worker's Compensation Insurance premium in 2016 over the amount collected by the Maryland Racing Commission from a \$100 license fee.

Shockwave, Tapping and Vaccination Protocols

The Board voted unanimously to endorse the general idea of the creation of reporting protocols for shockwave, joint injections and vaccinations and authorize the MTHA Racing committee to work out the details of such protocols with Maryland Jockey Club.

2015 Simulcasting Consent

The Board unanimously granted the Executive Committee the authority to grant consent for the acceptance of interstate off-track wagers on the export of any live Maryland thoroughbred race to an out-of-state wagering facility and the import of any live race from an out-of-state track run from January 1 through and including December 31."

Field Size Limits

The Board unanimously endorsed the practice of limiting field size to 12 starters in all turf races, with the exception of stakes, as well limit two-year-old races on the dirt under 6 furlongs to 12 starters.



Rec Report

Soccer Results

The MTHA Soccer League ended on Nov. 2 with an exciting championship match with Lucy FC defeating Chilenous United by a score of 2-0. The six-week league was a huge success with many horsemen participating each week.

The Lucy FC team consists of players Salvador Bravo (captain), Luis Carlos Garcia, Francisco Avila, Hector Guerrero, and Victor Garcia.

Poker Tournament

The MTHA Texas Hold'em Tournament was won by Tony Aguirre with second place going to Tim Welch. Other top finishers included T.J. Aguirre, Scott Wolfendale, Dave Lezelle, and Howard Wolfendale. The next tournament will be held in February, please watch for details.

Basketball League

The MTHA will begin a Basketball League scheduled to begin in January on Sunday evenings at Meade High School, anyone interested in having a team or playing please contact Dan Mangum @ 410-802-5798.

Bowling League

The MTHA bowling league began on Monday, October 19th at Laurel AMF Fairlanes. We have consistently had 14 teams for the 18-week league.

We bowl on Mondays beginning @ 11:45 A.M. To add a team call Dan at (410) 802-5798.



Please call the Maryland Jockey Club Integrity Hotline and leave an anonymous and confidential message.

301-470-LINE



MTHA has secured use of an 11-person transport van to be used with various events on the backstretch. Look for an event schedule to be posted soon.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published by the
MTHA

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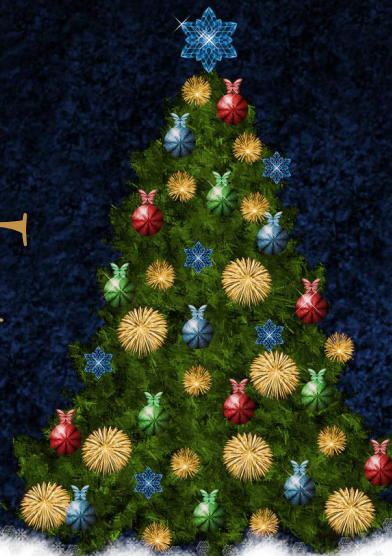
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Our dedicated backstretch workers can enjoy a free

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

Christmas morning at Pimlico and Laurel Park track kitchens
compliments of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's
Association and the Maryland Jockey Club.



MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

December 2015

STANDARD
PRE-SORT
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WESTMINSTER, MD

➔ Award Winners, Continued from Page 1

In 2015, without having the “big horse,” Motion still managed to keep his stable in the top 10 nationally. He has produced 32 stakes winners and seen his horses finish among the top three 44 percent of the time.

Those numbers, along with his second-best purse-winning season (more than \$7.4 million), demonstrates his continued excellence and has earned him Trainer of the Year.

King Leatherbury is no stranger to awards but this year has been a particularly fulfilling one for the storied Maryland trainer.

Last summer he was voted into the National Thoroughbred Hall of Fame in Saratoga, N.Y., an honor that showed recognition by the entire industry for his achievements. At his induction Leatherbury was the fourth winningest trainer in history and one of just four trainers ever to

win more than 6,000 races.

Now he receives the MTHA lifetime achievement award. Leatherbury said the local award carries great weight “because it is from the horsemen in Maryland. It is from the people I’ve worked with every day. It is a special, wonderful honor.”

Humble by nature, Leatherbury says this award comes to him because of the success of his wonderful home-bred Ben’s Cat and because he has gotten to be 82 years old.

“You get old, these kinds of things come,” he says. “You’re not going to get a lifetime achievement award when you’re young.

CONTINUE READING ➔

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