



The Horsemen's Newsletter



May 2018

Vol. 28 • Number 5

Maryland Jockey Club Introduces New Track Superintendent Chris Bosley

Maryland native Chris Bosley is getting acclimated in his new job as track superintendent for Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course, but he said he already has seen progress.

Bosley, 28, now oversees all track maintenance crews at both racetracks. He previously served as track superintendent for the Maryland State Fair at Timonium and its related May 2-year-olds in training sale for five years.

"Chris is in charge of the dirt surfaces at Laurel and Pimlico and will report directly to me," Maryland Jockey Club President Sal Sinatra said.

Gonzalo Herrera-Avanda will remain the turf specialist with the goal of Bosley also taking over the grass courses in the near future. In addition, Dr. Mick Peterson, Executive Director of the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory and head of the University of Kentucky Equine Programs, will assist Bosley as he grows into his new role and also will be involved in the surface at Pimlico to ensure its safety in

advance of the Preakness Stakes.

About 2,500 tons of cushion material is on its way to Pimlico for surface improvements for the meet that begins May 10.

Bosley's family has a background in the racing industry, and he has a passion track maintenance.

"I was hired as track superintendent at Timonium when I was 23, doing the whole show," Bosley said. "My father, Chuck, was the maintenance supervisor at Timonium but retired about 10 years ago. My first year on the track was when I was 17, driving the water truck and tractor.

"This opportunity (with the MJC) presented itself, and I'd have been a fool not to take it. I want to provide a safe, sound racetrack first and foremost, and also want everything to look good and have a crew

Continues Page 2 ➔



Groom Elite Program Beginning In June at Laurel Park

As part of its overall backstretch outreach program, the MTHA for the first time will offer courses that are part of the highly regarded Groom Elite Program.

The most basic course, Basic Grooming 99, is scheduled for June 25-29 at Laurel Park. It will be followed at a later date by the program's primary course, Groom Elite 101.

The MTHA Board of Directors earlier this year signed off the plan to bring the Groom Elite Program to Maryland. Dr. Reid McLellan visited Laurel to make a presentation on how the educational program works, and at that time noted the courses are based on differing levels of knowledge and experience.

During his almost 15 years directing the



Animal Industries program at Louisiana Tech University, McLellan launched an equine specialty program by which students were licensed as trainers by the state racing commission and trained racehorses on a half-mile track at the school. He has held other positions in the racing industry along with voluntarily leading Groom Elite in the early 2000s.

The introductory course is 16 hours devoted to preparing people for entry-level jobs such as hot walker or groom and doesn't include certification. Groom Elite 101, the only nationally recognized groom certification program, is far more extensive with 40 hours of education over several weeks in order to accommodate the schedules of students.

McLellan oversees Groom Elite classes at

many racetracks in North America, and keeps a busy schedule doing so. From May 7-11, Presque Isle Downs & Casino in northwestern Pennsylvania will offer Basic Grooming 99, which provides four days of hands-on instruction and one day for evaluation and job-placement assistance.

An important part of the program is assessing the interest of each student to identify those who may seek future employment. The first Groom Elite class in Iowa had 24 participants, and eight ended up taking jobs working with horses.

McLellan and track management were pleasantly surprised when the course overfilled with 24 people. At one point 31 had signed up, but seven were unable to attend for various reasons.

Continues Page 3 ➔

For complete rules, news, bonuses and detailed race information visit:

matchseries.com

Mid-Atlantic Breeders Join Match

The revival of the widely-acclaimed MATCH Series (Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Championships) gained further momentum this morning with the announcement that breeders' organizations in the region will pay bonuses to the breeder of the highest point-earning colt/gelding and filly/mare from each program.

The Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey and Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Pro-

be able to participate. This is a wonderful step for the series and something we hope we can build on in future years, including competition among the programs."

"The Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association is glad that we can contribute to making the return of the MATCH Series a big success," said PHBA Executive Director Brian Sanfratello. "We wanted to make sure that the breeders of these magnificent horses also shared in what will be a fantastic summer of racing."

"We're happy to join Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program in participating in the MATCH Series," said Cricket Goodall, Executive Director of the MHBA. "Maryland-bred horses did very well in the original series, but we didn't have a way to recognize the breeders. We are delighted to have the breeders as a part of the series and we're looking forward to the competition."

"We are excited to offer this bonus to the series for all horses in our program and for the possibility that a horse has the potential to double its bonus earnings because it is Delaware Certified if it is Maryland-, New Jersey- or Pennsylvania-bred," Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Executive Director Beskie Gruwell said. "These bonuses solidify the potential of extra earnings for breeders to take advantage of in the Mid-Atlantic states by sending their young horses to Delaware to be Delaware Certified."

The MATCH Series, which returns after a 16-year hiatus, is the racing industry's first and only regional championship competition. Horses will compete in stakes in five different divisions throughout the region from mid-May through mid-September, with the horses competing for just under \$3 million in purses and earning points for their order of finish. The owners and trainers of the series horses will compete for \$450,000 in bonuses, with bonuses being paid for the winners of each division and the overall championship. The series debuts on May 18 at Pimlico Race Course on Black-Eyed Susan Day.

Further details and the launch of www.matchseries.com will be forthcoming shortly. For further information, contact Alan Foreman at 410-336-0525 or 410-356-8866; alan@tharacing.com; or Tom LaMarra at 859-492-8365; tomlamarra@gmail.com.



gram will each offer \$10,000 in bonuses, with the breeder of the top point-earning male and female from each program receiving a \$5,000 bonus. The decision by the organizations to join the series completes the effort to get all of the region's stakeholders to participate and enjoy the benefits of the championship competition.

"I am delighted that we have been able to bring our breeders into the series and showcase our bred-fund programs," said MATCH Series creator Alan Foreman. "In our efforts to revive the series, we wanted everyone in the region to

"The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey is proud to join Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware in offering a bonus to the breeder of the top New Jersey-bred point-earning colt/gelding and filly/mare in the 2018 MATCH Series," TBANJ Executive Director Mike Campbell said. "This unique and exciting series is sure to generate interest among breeders, horsemen and racing enthusiasts across the country, and we look forward to watching New Jersey-bred horses compete throughout the series."

Track Superintendant, From Page 1

that takes pride in its work and enjoys the work. This is more than a job; we need to make it a sustainable career."

Bosley, who met with horsemen's representatives the afternoon of April 20 and indicated a willingness to meet with them on a regular basis to get feedback, said he already has seen a difference in the dirt surface at Laurel.

"Since I started out, I see improvement," he said. "The grading needed to be evened out

a bit. We need more cushion out there, and we've begun doing that."

Bosley said the focus is on equine health and welfare, as well as consistency.

"You can't have a racetrack without horses, and safety is a huge thing," he said. "It's all about the horses. I think everyone is getting on the same page now. It's all going to help us keep the track even and fair. It's going to take some time, but the group here has been great, and they care."

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





Hopkins Now Chair of ACRI

Mike Hopkins, longtime Executive Director of the Maryland Racing Commission, is the new chair of the Association of Racing Commissioners, the umbrella organization for racing regulatory agencies throughout North America.

As is the custom, Hopkins will serve one year as chair.

Hopkins said his objectives are to continue

collaboration with all industry stakeholders. He noted the importance of medication uniformity, on which Maryland has been a leader.

"I think continued communication with every stakeholder in the industry is important, that we all come out on the right end of it in thinking about the safety and welfare of the horse and safety of the rider, and to make sure we're protecting the wagering public," Hopkins said.

Groom Elite, From Page 1

"Most of those that signed up are from the Erie area," McLellan said. "We asked them whether they planned to apply for job (working with horses), and most of them said they do. We're always happy to get new people. The point is to get hot walkers to become entry-level grooms."

McLellan said the number of sign-ups at Presque Isle is twice that of a recent course in Kentucky, and many of those people came from other states. He believes the Maryland program can be successful.

"We need to get the word out about the program," McLellan said.

Former Maryland-based trainer Chris Grove is helping coordinate the Groom Elite Program at Laurel. The effort involves grassroots outreach to college students who may be interested in learning about basic racehorse care and grooming during the summer break.

Grove said the Groom Elite Program curricu-

lum is set, so it comes down to marketing. The MTHA hopes it eventually helps increase the backstretch workforce.

"It's a great program, and I think we can get some new people involved," Grove said. "Our goal is to better all horsemanship skills—that is what this program is intended to do. Horsemanship has suffered over the last two decades, and this program can help turn the tide. Reid has the playbook for it."

McLellan said the program is for those who have never worked with horses or have very limited experience. He noted the program is also beneficial for anyone interested in adopting retired racehorses or simply to learn about basic horse care.

The following is an overview as provided by the Groom Elite Program:

The education programs are based upon the fact that education is most effective when it is immediately relevant to the person in their day-to-day life, is dynamic, engages students in

multiple methods of learning, and is easy to understand. Materials were developed by college professors with more than 60 years combined experience in horses, racing and teaching, along with contributions from veterinarians, farriers, equine dentists, and human health and safety professionals.

Programs are designed to provide knowledge and skills training that will enhance the ability of grooms and others to care for their horses. There also are vocational programs that prepare individuals without equine care experience for entry-level positions.

Certification courses for experienced workers require demonstration of minimum knowledge on a written assessment and demonstration of minimum skills in five areas during a practical assessment. Non-certification courses provide information and hands-on experiences for those seeking to improve their equine care knowledge

Rec Report

Spring Golf Results

We had 60 people show up at Compass Pointe in Pasadena on Monday, April 23rd for the MTHA golf tournament. It was a beautiful day out and everyone enjoyed themselves. It came right down to the final couple of holes, but the team of Libby Butts, John Curly, Chuck Friedman and Kyle McCarthy were able to win the tournament by shooting a 59. The winning team finished one shot ahead of Anthony Farrior, Russ Williams, Denny Johnson and Ted Johnson. Finishing in third place shooting a 61 was the team of Mel Sanders, Mike Pison, Britt James and Steve Smith.

The long drive award went to Anthony Farrior and Bob Klesaris and Simon Purdy won the two closest to the pin holes. John Curley won the Bowie BaySox tickets in the raffle and Jack Hull won the Oriole tickets.

The MTHA will be holding our next tournament on Monday, September 17th at Compass Pointe.

Spring Outing

On Tuesday May 8th, the MTHA Van will depart for a day of fun and sightseeing to Annapolis. The Van will leave from the main gate at approximately 11 a.m. and return around 5 p.m.

Also, we have a date planned for Thursday July 12th with the van taking us to St. Michaels, Maryland, leaving the main gate at 11 a.m. and returning around 5:30 p.m.

Please call Dan at 410-802-5798 to reserve your seat.

Baseball Tickets

The winners for the Orioles's Ticket Drawings thus far are: 4/11-Emilio Ortega, 4/20-Matt Dillon, 4/23-Nathan Presler, 4/26-Bill Wolfendale, 4/28-Ma. Elea Quioz, 5/8-John Allman, 5/12-Phil Schothenal, 5/16-Jermaine McDonald, 6/1-Vicki Irons, Sundays: 4/1-Wayne Potts, 4/22-Tink Throckmartin, 4/29 Doug Leatherman, 5/13 Dorothy Worton, 6/17 Harold Murphy and 7/15-Claudio Gonzales Barn.

Sports Betting Not Addressed By Annapolis

The 2018 Maryland General Assembly session ended in April without definitive action on a referendum that would authorize sports betting in the state.

The House of Delegates passed a bill March 15 by a vote of 124-14, but it didn't progress in the Senate. The House bill identifies casinos and racetracks as being able to offer sports betting.

Racing industry representatives spoke in favor of legislation during a House Ways and Means Committee meeting in early March. Officials said sports betting can serve as means to attract additional customers to tracks and introduce them to horse racing.

As of early May, the U.S. Supreme Court had not released its decision on a suit challenging federal law that bans sports betting in all but four states.



Two Breaks Added For Safety

The Maryland Jockey Club recently altered training hours at Laurel Park to include two maintenance breaks. The goal is to facilitate track maintenance and provide surface consistency.

Training hours are now 5:30-10:30 a.m., with breaks from 7:30-8 a.m. and 9-9:30 a.m. Gate schooling is available from 7:30 a.m., 8-9 a.m. and 9:30-10 a.m. At Pimlico Race Course, training hours are the same, and there is only one maintenance break.

Track Superintendent Chris Bosley said should the adjustments should improve the surface. In order to facilitate the expanded maintenance, the MJC said it's important for horses to be off the track before each break in a timely fashion, as well as when training ends each morning.

"At 10:30, we need to be out there (with equipment on the track)," Bosley said. "It's just going to help the track surface. (The new schedule) gives us more time to work the track and keep it more even and fair. There's also more time to put water on it and harrow it, which benefits the horses."



MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

May 2018

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

Backstretch Pension Sign-Up Schedule

MTHA's Backstretch Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2017 will take place at the following times and locations.

Please bring your MRC Badge and W-2, 1099, or tax return for 2017.



April 30 - May 4

Laurel Park Rec Room,
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

May 7 - May 11

Pimlico MTHA Office,
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Board of Directors

Timothy L. Keefe, President
Linda S. Gaudet, Vice President
Dale Capuano, Vice President
Michael F. Horning, Treasurer
Katharine M. Voss, Secretary

A. Ferris Allen, III
JoAnn Hayden
R. Larry Johnson
Mark B. Lapidus
Robert T. Manfuso
Hugh I. McMahon
H. Graham Motion
Charles J. Reed
Philip B. Schoenthal
Michael J. Trombetta