



The Horsemen's Newsletter



May 2019

Vol. 29 • Number 5

MTHA, Breeders Issue Statement On Race-Day Meds

The stakeholders in Maryland's racing industry are parties to a landmark 10-Year Agreement that has facilitated many positive changes to the way our racing is being conducted at every level. It has truly led to a renaissance for Maryland's racing industry. Our collective partnership, with the support of the Maryland Racing Commission, has succeeded because we have agreed to speak as one and as a united industry after years of discord.

Moreover, our collective efforts in Maryland, together with our fellow stakeholders and regulators in the Mid-Atlantic region, have resulted in the implementation of industry-leading health, safety and welfare protocols and strategies for our horses. We are seeing evidence-based results from our efforts. In Maryland, we put our horses first, which is why we are committed and enthusiastic participants in the recently adopted Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan to Reduce Equine Fatalities.

Therefore, and contrary to the manner in which we have been conducting ourselves in Maryland, it is most disappointing that The

Stronach Group at no time has sought to engage or have any discussions with us regarding their recent divisive decision to seek to implement a ban on the use of furosemide (Lasix) on race day for our horses, the only safe and effective medication scientifically proven to mitigate the adverse effects of exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage. The proposed ban, if implemented, is an experiment capable of resulting in irreparable harm to many of our horses; most importantly 2-year-olds, where mitigation and prevention of EIPH is most important and necessary.

Deprivation of a safe and effective medication for our horses is totally contrary to our commitment to the health, safety and welfare of the horse, and veterinary scientific experts and researchers agree.

To be clear, our joint position on the use of Lasix on race day is, and remains, that absent an effective alternative treatment for EIPH in the horse, we support the current strict and uniformly enforced regulatory protocols for the administration of Lasix on race day, consistent

with the recommendations of the AAEP and the AVMA. We do so because we unequivocally believe that the current industry uniform regulatory policy is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the horse and the betting public, and is in the best interest of Maryland's storied racing industry.

We do not believe a partial ban is consistent with this mandate and will vigorously oppose any change to current regulatory policy in Maryland, absent a regional agreement to do so. We will always, together with our regional colleagues, place the health, safety and welfare of the horse first and foremost.

We are prepared to continue to support financially any coordinated industry effort to find a more effective treatment alternative for EIPH. We think this is the best direction for the industry if we are ever going to diverge from the current strict and uniformly regulated protocols for the appropriate treatment of EIPH in the racehorse in the United States.

Pension Signups Expanded To Fair Hill

MTHA staff will be making a trip to the Fair Hill Training Center in Cecil County in late May to offer on-site sign-ups for the organization's backstretch pension plan.

Personnel will be on hand Tuesday, May 21, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the clockers' tower at the training facility. Those who want to sign up must have their current Maryland Racing Commission license badge and their W2, 1099 or 2018 tax return.

The sign-up is for current Fair Hill backstretch workers with Maryland licenses.

Pension sign-ups continue in the Laurel Park track kitchen until Friday, May 3, and will move to Pimlico Race Course Monday, May 6, through Friday, May 10, in the MTHA office in the Pimlico grandstand near the racing office.

Earlier this year, the Maryland Racing Commission approved *Continues Page 3* ➔



Match Series Begins With A Spark

The 2019 MATCH Series got off to an excellent start at Laurel Park April 20 with a mix of old and new in four divisional stakes won by horses based in the Mid-Atlantic region. And compared to last year's launch, the weather was superb.

The connections of the winners expressed appreciation for the series, which returned to the calendar last year after a 16-year absence. One of the victorious horses—Secret Message, who captured the Dahlia Stakes—is trained by Graham Motion, who in 1998 won the same division.

"I'm a huge fan of the series," Motion said. "I remember when Bursting Forth, owned by Sam Huff, won her (turf) division. I think the series is a great idea, partially because it keeps races from being scheduled on top of each other. It's also a great incentive for trainers."

The conditions at Laurel, which managed to escape severe storms in the area the night be-



fore, were fast and firm. When MATCH kicked off last May at Pimlico Race Course on Preakness weekend, it rained heavily both days.

Field size for the four MATCH stakes April 20 averaged 9.75.

There are four divisions in this year's series, and at Laurel, three of them were won by Maryland-based horses.

The Frank J. Whiteley Stakes (3-Year-Olds and Up Sprint-Dirt Division) was captured by Hillside Equestrian Meadows Laki, winner of the division last year after starting in all five stakes in his division. Ridden by Horacio Karmanos for trainer Damon Dilodovico, Maryland-

bred Laki is based at Laurel.

Another Maryland-bred, Dirty, made his 2019 debut a winning one for owner Tom Grady and New York-based trainer Jeremiah Englehart, who last year opened a division in Maryland at Laurel. Dirty won the King T. Leatherbury Stakes (3-Year-Olds and Up Sprint—Turf Division) under jockey Jorge Vargas Jr.

Secret Message's Dahlia Stakes victory came in the Filly and Mare Long—Turf Division, which returned to the MATCH schedule this year. Owned by Madaket Stables, ERJ Racing, Elayne Stable 5 and Bouchey Thoroughbred Ventures, Secret Message is based with Motion at the Fair Hill Training Center and was ridden by Trevor McCarthy.

The Primonetta Stakes (Filly and Mare Sprint—Dirt Division) went to Parx Racing-based Ms Locust Point, who is owned by Cash is

We've Got Your Ticket

The MTHA has access to season tickets to the Baltimore Orioles, Major League soccer's DC United and Arena football's Baltimore Brigade that are regularly distributed free of charge by a raffle to horsemen working on the backstretch at Laurel Park and Pimlico

If you are interested in attending any of these events, contact Dan Mangum at 410-802-5798 to enter into a drawing today.



Rec Report

Bowling

The 16-week MTHA bowling league just concluded with Matt Dillion and JD Brown winning the league. Damon Dilodovico Jr and Marty Leonard came in second and Tim Walsh and John Poe came in third.

Softball

Softball will be beginning in June and will be played at the Laurel Driving range located directly across from the track on Route 198. Games will be played on Tuesdays.

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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



Don't forget!

MTHA Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2019
Tycoons-Laurel Park
11am - All Members Invited

Arena Football Night

July 13 • Royal Farms Arena • Baltimore Brigade vs. Washington Valor

In a special event for Maryland Horsemen, the MTHA, in conjunction with the Baltimore Brigade and Medstar Sports Medicine, is hosting "Arena Football Night" on Saturday, July 13th at Royal Farms Arena when the Baltimore Brigade battle the Washington Valor.

Maryland horsemen will be offered tickets at a reduced rate for the night, a special reception before the game as well as field

access after the game in which Recreation Director Mary Leonard will coordinate a special flag football game among interested attendees.

Medstar Sports Medicine physicians, in addition to serving the Horsemen's Health System, are also the official health provider of the Brigade and Valor.

Complete details and pricing will be announced soon.



Dr. Benson Named Chief Veterinary Officer For TSG

Dr. Dionne Benson, who most recently has served as Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, has been appointed as the Chief Veterinary Officer for The Stronach Group.

The creation of the position of Chief Veterinary Officer—originally titled Director of Equine Welfare—was part of en-



hanced protocols and procedures enacted by the company in March after a series of catastrophic injuries in racing and training at Santa Anita Park.

The position will include directing safety and welfare as well as veterinary research initiatives for all TSG facilities: Santa Anita and Golden Gate Fields, Gulfstream Park, and Laurel Park and Pimlico.

► *Pension, continued from Page 1* —

a request by the MTHA Board of Directors to increase the amount of money it devotes to the pension plan each year. It now stands at \$750,000, the highest in its history after being set at \$400,000 previous years.

The Backstretch Pension Plan was established in 1988 to provide retirement income to backstretch employees and trainers as a supplement to Social Security. Full vesting in the program is achieved after three years of participation. Disbursements can be requested at age 55 with 25 years of service or at age 65.

MJC Projects Continue on Laurel Park Backstretch

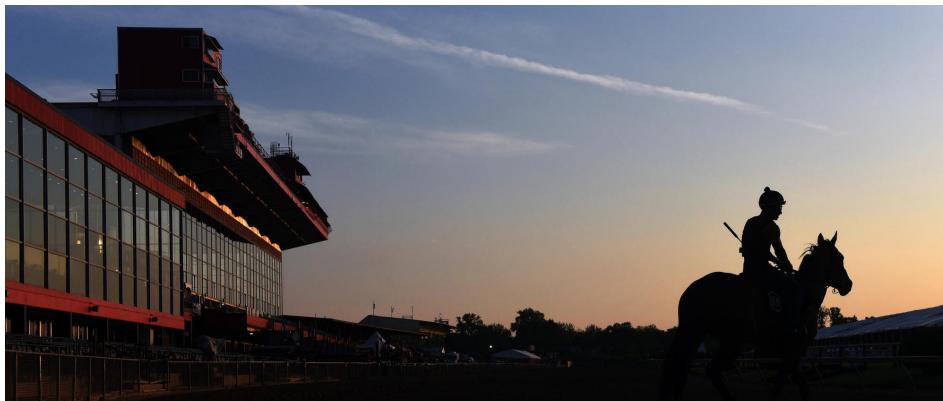
The Maryland Jockey Club provided the Maryland Racing Commission April 25 with an update on construction projects at Laurel Park.

MJC President Sal Sinatra said the planned three-level structure—called the Amish barn or “stick” barn—will be located near the gap at the three-eighths-mile pole rather than in the corner of the barn area at Route 198 and Brock Bridge Road. The area, near the Receiving Barn, is fairly open.

“It will be quicker than having to take down other buildings,” said Sinatra, who noted construction of the barn could take about six months.

The MJC also is getting price estimates on the cost of running a water main to Barn 3—a third tent barn not yet occupied—and another water main elsewhere in the stable area, Sinatra said.

Meanwhile, smoke detectors have been replaced in backstretch dormitories, some of which are getting new windows. Sinatra also said the MJC hopes to have a Laurel site-development finished soon for Anne Arundel County government agencies.



Trainer Bonuses Return For BES, Preakness programs

Horsemen will be eligible for \$150,000 in bonuses in stakes and overnight events at Pimlico Race Course Preakness Stakes weekend May 17-18.

Trainer bonuses of \$100,000 (\$50,000 to \$2,000 for first- through sixth-place) are tied to points accumulated in 16 stakes over the two days. A trainer must have a minimum of five horses in combined stakes to be eligible.

In addition, \$50,000 will be up for grabs

to trainers with the most points based on finish position in all other races on the two programs. The bonuses are scaled from \$25,000 for first down to \$1,000 for sixth, with no minimum threshold to qualify.

As usual, overnight purses for the two days will be higher than usual. Maiden special weight events will go for \$50,000, up from \$40,000. Allowance races will run for \$52,000-\$55,000.



MTHA Express Van Headed On Free Trips

Beginning in June, the MTHA will offer a series of free trips for horsemen with the beach, the city and the Eastern Shore on this summer's "Day Out" schedule.

All three trips will be held on Tuesdays.

On June 18, those who reserve a space will travel to Sandy Point State Park on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay near

Annapolis. Activities will include fishing and swimming.

The second trip, to Baltimore's Inner Harbor, is set for July 8. The Inner Harbor features a number of restaurants and attractions such as the National Aquarium.

The series wraps up Sept. 10 with a jaunt to St. Michaels, the historic town on the Miles

River in Talbot County. It is home to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

The van will leave the stable gate at 11:30 a.m. for the first two trips and at 11 a.m. for the St. Michaels trip. Call Dan Mangum at 410-802-5798 to reserve your space.



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

May 2019

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MTHA Golf Tournament Monday, May 13

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



**Walden Country Club
Crofton, Maryland**
Registration: 11 a.m.
Tee Off: Noon

\$65 per golfer. Contact Marty Leonard at (203) 733-1367

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