



The Horsemen's Newsletter

May 2009

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Magna auction leaves out Maryland assets

Magna Entertainment Corp. has four of its race tracks on the auction block—but is not offering its Maryland tracks (Laurel, Pimlico and Bowie) or the Preakness. Earlier plans had called for the Maryland holdings to be included as part of Magna's bankruptcy liquidation.

Up for sale are Magna-owned Santa Anita, Remington Park, Thistledown and Portland Meadows, and various other assets.

The plan has been accepted by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware.

"Magna will continue to explore all alternatives with assets not listed in the current auction," according to *Thoroughbred Times*. "If acceptable offers are not received for the properties, Magna will consider all restructuring options."

Policy on jogging wrong way at Laurel

The Maryland Jockey Club has notified trainers and exercise riders that jogging the wrong way on the race track during gate schooling hours is strictly prohibited.

Jogging the wrong way on the race track is allowed from 5:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. only.

A rider who is caught by the outrider or an assistant starter jogging the wrong way when the starting gate is in use will be permanently barred from exercising a horse at an MJC facility.

Rosecroft refuses to pay set fee for Thoroughbred signals

Rosecroft Raceway has backed out of its deal to compensate Maryland's Thoroughbred industry for the privilege of simulcasting Thoroughbred races.

The 15-year industry agreement signed by all major participating groups in Maryland's Thoroughbred and harness industries in March 2006 called for Rosecroft to pay \$5.9 million annually for the Thoroughbred signal. The fee is divided proportionally among the track operator, Purse Account and Maryland-bred Fund.

The Thoroughbred industry is entitled to compensation because Rosecroft, located in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Oxon Hill, is only 32 miles from Laurel, and thus competes for customers.

Rosecroft halted payments as of January 1, 2009, and, according to Kelley Rogers, president of track owner Cloverleaf Enterprises Inc., it is willing to pay no more than \$2 million a year from this point forward.

Thoroughbred industry representa-

See *Rosecroft*, page 4

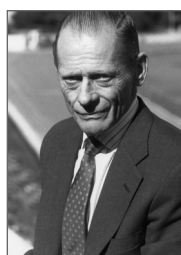
Anne Arundel County slots site stalled by zoning issue

Plans for a slots site at Arundel Mills Mall, approved by the Slots Commission in February, remain up in the air as the Anne Arundel County council continues to delay action on necessary zoning changes.

The council has postponed voting on the issue several times, while residents

near the mall have rallied to fight the proposal of Baltimore-based Cordish Companies.

If zoning can't be obtained the bidding for the Anne Arundel County slots license will be re-opened, and Laurel Park will once again have an opportunity to make its bid.



Steward Bill Passmore: one of Maryland's finest

Retired Maryland Steward William J. (Bill) Passmore died on May 14, losing a long battle with emphysema. He was 76.

One of Maryland's premier riders during a career that spanned 38 years (1948 to 1986), Mr. Passmore became a steward immediately after retiring as a jockey. He officially retired from the stew-

ards' stand last fall, but his health had prevented him from working since December 2007.

"Bill was as knowledgeable a steward as you could find anywhere," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "That, added to his cool temperament, not to mention his great sense of humor, made him a wonderful asset to Maryland racing. He is truly missed."



Board actions

Meeting held April 29 in Laurel

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President; Richard J. Meyer, Vice President; John V. Alecci, Howard M. Bender, Phillip L. Capuano, William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr., Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Christopher W. Grove, Arnold A. Heft, Timothy L. Keefe, Katharine M. Voss

Members absent: Dale Capuano, Lawrence E. Murray, John J. Robb

Drug and Alcohol Program

By unanimous vote, the board agreed to continue its support of the Drug and

Alcohol Program at the same level as in previous years.

AHC membership

The board agreed by majority vote to renew the MTHA's membership in the American Horse Council (AHC), for an increased fee. The vote was 10 for and 1 against, with Mr. Alecci casting the opposing vote.

The AHC is the major organization providing representation for the Thoroughbred industry in the U.S. Congress.

The Flynn Fund

By unanimous vote, the board ap-

proved a contribution to a fund for Bob Flynn, the former New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association executive director who is in a catastrophic financial situation due to illness.

2009 Budget

The MTHA's 2009 budget was presented and approved.

Financial report

The MTHA's financial report for the period January 1 through December 31, 2008 was reviewed and unanimously approved as presented.

Facilities in Maryland providing services for retired race horses

Beth Kokoruda

7450 Emory Place, Hughesville, Md. 20637. Contact: Beth Kokoruda. Boards retirees. (301) 922-7029; e-mail: b_kokoruda@yahoo.com; www.travelersfarm.com.

CANTER Mid-Atlantic (the Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Ex-Racehorses)

Contact: Allie Conrad. Thoroughbred placement. (301) 980-0972; allie@canterusa.org; www.canterusa.org.

Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.

1372 Woodbine Rd., Woodbine, Md. 21797. Contact: Kathleen Schwartz-Howe. Animal welfare organization. (301) 854-5037, (410) 442-1564; info@defhr.org; www.defhr.org.

Encore Thoroughbreds

383 Connelly Rd., Rising Sun, Md. 21911. Contact: Cathy Insley. Retraining facility. (443) 866-6606; e-mail: Cathy@encorethoroughbreds.com; www.encorethoroughbreds.com.

Equihab Foundation

111 S Main Street, North East, Md., 21901. Rescue organization. (443) 466-4087; e-mail: horses@equihab.com; www.equihab.com.

Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc.

16724 Miller Lane, Parkton, Md. 21120. Contact: Deborah Rollins Frank. (410) 343-2142; Equinerescue_rehab@yahoo.com; www.horsescue.com.

Freedom Hill

Horse Rescue, Inc.

705 Sam Hill Drive, Owings, Md. 20736. Contact: Melody Parrish. Rescue and rehabilitation. (410) 474-7662; e-mail: freeourhorses@yahoo.com; www.freedomhillrescue.org.

Greystone Equine Rescue & Rehabilitation Inc.

Rising Sun, Md. Contact: Laura Hudson. (410) 658-7733, (443) 907-8627; e-mail: Lhudson@cecil.edu; www.my-space.com/greystoneequine.

Horse Lovers United, Inc.

P.O. Box 2744, Salisbury, MD 21802-2744. Adoption program. (410) 749-3599; e-mail: HLU; www.horseloversunited.com.

HorseNet Horse Rescue

14001 Mattie Haines Rd., Mount Airy, Md. 21771. Contact: Elle Williams. Rescue and rehabilitation. (410) 984-0824; e-mail: info@horsenethorserescue.org; www.horsenethorserescue.org.

Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue

P.O. Box 403, Chesapeake City, Md. 21915. Contact: Beverly Strauss. Thoroughbred rescue and adoption. (302) 376-7297; e-mail: Bev@MidAtlanticHorseRescue.org; www.MidAtlanticHorseRescue.org.

Pheasant Hill Equine Foundation

4911 Bald Hill Rd., Adamstown, Md. 21710. Contact: Pat Douglas. Retraining facility. (301) 639-8994, (301) 874-6949; e-mail: phequinefoundation@yahoo

.com; www.phequinefoundation.org.

Sugarloaf Horse Rescue

Ijamsville, Md. 21754. Contact: Amy Morrison. Help with rehoming available. (301) 865-0118; e-mail: md_horse_rescue@yahoo.com; www.geocities.com/md_horse_rescue.

The Snowflake Society, St. Mary's Animal Welfare League

P.O. Box 1232, Leonardtown, Md. 20650. President: Barbara Whipkey. Serves abused, neglected and unwanted horses. (301) 373-5659; e-mail: smawl@yahoo.com; www.smawl.org.

Thoroughbred Placement and Rescue, Inc.

13130 Molly Berry Rd., Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772. Contact: Kimberly Clark. Retirement program run by Thoroughbred trainer. (410) 802-8425, (301) 579-6898; e-mail: kimberly@helpfortbs.org; www.helpfortbs.org.

Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation

P.O. Box 3387, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 12866. New facility, Second Chances, opened in May in Sykesville, Md. Contact: Diana Pikulski. (518) 226-0028, dpikulski@gmail.com; www.trfinc.org.

Unicorn Center, Inc.

6101 Glenn Dale Rd., Glenn Dale, Md. Contact: Nicole E. Kurtz. Retraining facility. (240) 417-0981; e-mail: farmerkurtz@aol.com; www.theunicorncenter.org.

Delaware to add sports betting

Competition for the wagering dollar in the Mid-Atlantic region will become more intense this fall, when Delaware is set to begin offering sports betting.

Delaware Governor Jack Markell has signed into law a bill authorizing the change. Only four states—Nevada, Delaware, Oregon and Montana—are exempt from a federal ban on sports betting.

All three of Delaware's race tracks, Delaware Park and the harness facilities Dover Downs and Harrington Raceway, are expected to have the expanded gaming, although the exact types of bets have not yet been determined.

Thoughts, from page 4

breaking with tradition that began in the 1970s. But Mr. Chuckas has made it clear that the new policy is here to stay. And he should be complimented, also, on his resolve.

In-state handle on the Preakness day card was predictably down, because of the lower attendance, but all-sources handle soared by nearly 18 percent.

In today's economy, an 18 percent increase is exceptional for any business. The wagering total reflects the strength of the overall card on Preakness day, which had competitive fields of quality runners.

Director of racing Georganne Hale and her staff assembled a program that attracted tremendous interest, and also helped to shine a positive light on Maryland racing.

*/Wayne W. Wright,
MTHA Executive Secretary*

The Horsemen's Newsletter

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Rosecroft, from page 1

tives met with Mr. Rogers on April 27, and were informed that although Rosecroft has funds available to meet the payment, that money will instead be used for legal fees and court costs involved in fighting the Thoroughbred interests.

At a Maryland Racing Commission meeting the following day, Mr. Rogers reiterated his stand, while defying the Commission's efforts to resolve the issue.

The Commission then agreed, by a vote of 6-2, to withdraw permission for

Thoroughbred simulcasts into Rosecroft. The matter has proceeded to court.

"Obviously, this is a distressing situation that makes no sense," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "The 15-year agreement was a good deal for Rosecroft, with better terms than Rosecroft had been getting before that. Their offer of \$2 million is unacceptable; we stand to gain that much in business that will be generated by Rosecroft customers returning to Laurel."

Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.
For information on the MTHA's
year-round recreation program call
(410) 802-5798.*

Softball

Softball leagues are forming at Laurel and games will begin in mid-June. For more information call Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798.

Poker

A Texas hold'em mock tournament is scheduled for Monday, June 29 at Bowie, beginning at high noon. Sign up in the track kitchens or call Mr. Mangum.

Orioles tickets

Winners of the drawings for Orioles tickets: April 28—Gary Capuano's barn;

May 27—Mike Gallegos.

There are still four sets left for this season. Sign-up is continuing in the track kitchens. The next drawing will be June 6.

Bowie Baysox

A limited number of free Bowie Baysox tickets sponsored by the MTHA for August and September are available. These are sets of two or four tickets and come with a free parking pass. Sign up in the track kitchens or call Mr. Mangum.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Donna Donovan, Gene Gilhooly, Joe Green, Herb and Miriam Mitenthal, Caroline Stautberg, T-Bone Stable and Frank Wright.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Park is expected to open for racing in August and continue through December, although the dates are not yet set.

Colonial Downs..... June 5-July 28
Timonium..... Aug. 29-Sept. 7

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM
Eastern Fall Yearlings..... Oct. 5-7
(Entries close July 13)
December Mixed..... Dec. 6, 7
(Entries close Sept. 21)

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Two-Year-Olds and Horses of Racing Age Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154..... June 16, 17
Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July Selected Yearlings, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555... July 20, 21
Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected Yearlings, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (516) 328-1800..... Aug. 10, 11

Fasig-Tipton New York-bred Yearlings, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (516) 328-1800..... Aug. 15, 16

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected/Open Yearlings, Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154..... Aug. 24-28

Keeneland September Yearlings, Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412... Sept. 14-27

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Fall Mixed, Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154..... Oct. 12-16

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555... Oct. 26-28

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected Fall Mixed, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555..... Nov. 9

Keeneland November Breeding Stock, Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412... Nov. 8-21

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Adena Springs Mixed, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555..... Nov. 6



Maryland schedule during Colonial Downs

MTHA

Office at Laurel will be open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Maryland Racing Commission

The Maryland Racing Commission office will be closed. Questions regarding Lasix should be directed to the Commission's main office at (410) 296-9682/296-9683/296-9684; Fax: (410) 296-9687.

Horsemen's Bookkeeper

Office will be open at Laurel Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Gate schooling

Bowie—Mondays, Wednesdays and

Fridays, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Laurel—Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Laurel turf course

The turf course at Laurel will be closed during the Colonial meet.

Stall issues

Bowie—Contact Jerry Burdick (301) 802-9440.

Laurel—Contact Terry Overmier/Charlie Hall (443) 324-6646, (301) 674-5108.

Stable area issues

Bowie—Contact Victor (Blue Marshall) (240) 876-64149.

Laurel—Contact Tony Edwards (443) 250-9872.

Race track issues

Contact David Whitman (443) 250-9870.

Check cashing at Laurel

Checks will be approved Mondays through Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. only. All checks must be approved. No checks over \$2,000 will be cashed.

The Colonial Downs meet extends from June 5 to July 28.

*Colonial Downs Racing Office:
(877) 482-7223, (804) 966-7223; Fax:
(804) 966-5110.*



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

May 2009

Thoughts and comment

The Maryland Jockey Club, and in particular MJC president and chief operating officer Tom Chuckas, deserve to be commended for the new Preakness Day infield policy.

It's true that many people stayed away on Preakness day this year, disappointed that they could no longer bring alcoholic beverages into the infield (actually, no liquids could come in through the gates).

While a 30 percent drop in attendance might seem alarming on the surface, sometimes it's necessary to take one step backward in order to move two steps forward.

The drunken yard party that went on in the Preakness infield every year did very little to enhance our industry or build our fan base.

Pimlico sought to appeal to a different type of crowd this year, offering day-long quality entertainment, along with reasonably priced refreshments that could be purchased on the grounds. The goal is a fan-friendly environment that will attract more people to the sport. And that will have long-term benefits for everyone involved.

No doubt it was a tough decision,

See *Thoughts*, page 2

MTHA Board of Directors

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