



MTHA's Backstretch Pension Plan Registration

Attention All Backstretch Employees (Assistant Trainers, Exercise Persons, Grooms, Hotwalkers, Stable Foremen, Trainers, etc.)

Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2009 will take place at the following times and locations.

Bring your Maryland Racing Commission Badge and W-2, 1099, or tax return for 2009.

For more information call the MTHA office at (410) 265-6842.

Failure to register will result in the loss of your 2009 benefit

March 29 through April 2

Bowie Track Kitchen, Office Next Door, 9:30 a.m. to noon

April 5 through April 9

Laurel Track Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 12 through April 16

Pimlico MTHA Office, 10 a.m. to noon

April 19 through April 23

Bowie Track Kitchen, Office Next Door, 9:30 a.m. to noon

April 26 through April 30

Laurel Track Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 3 through May 7

Pimlico MTHA Office, 10 a.m. to noon



MTHA

6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

February 2010



The Horsemen's Newsletter

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Auction of Maryland tracks set for Feb. 23

February 23 is the currently scheduled date for the auction of bankrupt Magna Entertainment Corp.'s Maryland Jockey Club holdings—Laurel, Pimlico and Bowie Training Center.

The auction has been delayed three times, while the Maryland Jockey Club rallied support for a petition drive to put the proposed Arundel Mills mall site on the ballot as a referendum in the November election (*see article at right*). The outcome of the petition drive will have a major impact on the value of Laurel.

Six qualified entities have submitted bids for the Maryland Jockey Club, with the stalking horse bid coming from Pennsylvania horseman Jeffrey Seder's Blow Horn Equity LLC.

After the auction, a hearing on the sale is set for March 3.

The case is being heard in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware.

Anne Arundel petition drive ahead of schedule

The petition drive that could ultimately lead to a fall referendum on the Anne Arundel County slots license is proceeding at a brisk pace.

A total of 23,702 registered voters had signed the petition as of February 4. That number exceeds the total amount of signatures needed—18,790—to place the zoning ordinance on the November ballot.

"Without question, there is overwhelming opposition by Anne Arundel County citizens to placing a casino at Arundel Mills mall," said Rob Annicelli, president of the citizens group Stop Slots at Arundel Mills.

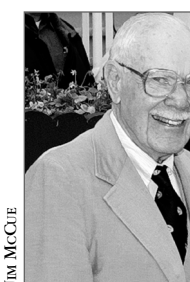
"People are voting with their signatures. They want the zoning ordinance on the ballot," said Heather Ford, Coalition Coordinator for Citizens Against Slots at the Mall. "Despite bad weather

and attempts to block our efforts, we know we will have more than enough validated petition signatures by the time we are done to place the zoning question on the November ballot."

Added Maryland Jockey Club President Tom Chuckas: "We are confident, that if given the choice, the people of Anne Arundel County will choose a more appropriate location for 4,750 slot machines that will benefit our county, our state, education funding and the thousands of jobs in the horse industry."

Baltimore-based Cordish Company has secured regulatory approval for a slots facility near Arundel Mills mall. However, the referendum, if approved, will derail the Cordish plan and possibly allow Laurel Park back into contention for the Anne Arundel County slots license.

Hal C.B. Clagett: owner, breeder and longtime industry leader



JIM MCCOIE

Hal C.B. Clagett, the southern Maryland attorney who was an integral part of Maryland racing for nearly 60 years, died on February 1 at the age of 93.

Mr. Clagett wrote the legislation that created the Maryland-bred Fund in 1962—the first state-bred incentive program in the nation.

From his ancestral farm, Weston, in Upper Marlboro, he bred and raced numerous stakes winners, including star performer Little Bold John.

Sold privately by Mr. Clagett late in

his 2-year-old season, Little Bold John—trained throughout his career by John J. (Jerry) Robb—won a career total of 38 races, including 25 stakes, and earned \$1,956,406.

A distinguished veteran of World War II, Mr. Clagett was a brother of the late Fendall M. Clagett, a longtime leader of the horsemen's group that preceded the MTHA.

Survivors include his son, Hal C.B. Clagett, III, also an owner/breeder and the current proprietor of Weston.

In recent years, Mr. Clagett made his home at Roedown farm in Davidsonville, Md., a historic property maintained by his late wife, Jeanne Begg Clagett, who died in 2007 at the age of 94.

Thoughts and comment

In all the rumors and confusion surrounding the auction of the Maryland tracks, one fact remains clear. The future of our industry will be on very shaky ground if whoever buys the Maryland Jockey Club's holdings is not wholeheartedly committed to maintaining Pimlico and Laurel, as well as the Bowie Training Center, and using them to conduct a live racing program that creates year-round opportunity and employment.

Horsemen have no say in this auction process. All we can do is stand by, and hope that the outcome is to our benefit—and not our ultimate destruction.

But it will help us chart our own

course if we look beyond the rhetoric.

I have been a participant, as well as an observer, on the political scene for many years. During that time I have seen many promises broken, many bold statements gone up in smoke.

I would encourage my fellow horsemen to watch the events of the next several months (*see article on page 1 regarding the Magna bankruptcy auction*) with a healthy skepticism.

Beware of those who make promises of saving racing and look to those who most likely have a sincere interest in the well-being of Maryland racing.

/Arnold A. Heft, MTHA Director, Legislative Committee Chairman

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Rule change would tighten control over devices that restrict rear vision

The Maryland Racing Commission is pursuing the following rule change. If approved, it is expected to take effect this summer.

Permission to add, or discontinue the use of, blinkers or any other device that would restrict the vision of a horse from behind shall be approved by the starter before being granted by the stewards.



Surrounding states soon to add table games

While Maryland awaits the opening of its first slots facilities later this year, the neighboring states of Delaware and Pennsylvania, and Charles Town in West Virginia, are about to take expanded gaming to a new level with the addition of table games.

Table games will be up and running at Charles Town by this summer, with a voter referendum to approve the full-fledged casino having passed by a wide majority this past December.

In Pennsylvania, Governor Ed Rendell signed into law in mid-January a measure that authorizes table games at each of the state's slots facilities, including its three Thoroughbred tracks, Philadelphia Park, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs. It is expected to take six to eight months to set the regulatory process in place.

Meanwhile, Delaware is in an admitted race to have its casinos up and running in advance of Pennsylvania. Delaware's Governor Jack Markell put his signature on a table games bill on January 28. Table games will be offered at each of Delaware's three tracks, Delaware Park and the harness facilities Dover Downs and Harrington Raceway.

The state of Delaware has also filed an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, seeking to overturn restrictions on its sports betting lottery.

Sports betting was instituted at Delaware tracks last fall, but it is limited to multi-game, or parlay, bets on professional football. Delaware officials had planned to offer single-game bets on a variety of professional and amateur events.

Anne Arundel slots are a political football

According to a report in *The Baltimore Sun*, former Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., may have violated "payola rules" while describing the Cordish company's bid for the Anne Arundel County slots license during a segment of the "Political Pulse" show on WBFF-Fox 45.

The Maryland Democratic Party reportedly has delivered a complaint to the Federal Communications Commission, over Gov. Ehrlich's comment, which aired on April 3, 2009. Governor Ehrlich stated: "We have one applicant, Cordish obviously, that followed the law, that dotted their i's, crossed their t's, and Magna did not, which is why they [Cordish] are now the lone applicant in Anne Arundel County."

Gov. Ehrlich failed to disclose that his law firm, Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, was being paid by Cordish to build support for Cordish's slots bid. Gov. Ehrlich leads the Baltimore division of the vast firm that provides a variety of services to businesses.

Jon Cordish has countered that although the company had been hired to assist with community relations for the site, Gov. Ehrlich himself had not been hired.

USDA discontinues National Animal Identification System

From the American

Veterinary Medical Association
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on February 5 that the agency would take a different direction than was charted through the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

The new system is expected to leave identification and tracing programs with the states and tribal territories rather than with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The new program will apply only to animals moving in interstate commerce into marketing channels, with disease traceability required for those animals,

according to the USDA.

States and tribal nations will determine how to meet minimum traceability requirements.

The federal government had already spent more than \$120 million on the nationwide program, but only 36 percent—or about 500,000—of U.S. animal

producers were participating, according to the USDA. The agency hosted public meetings on the NAIS across the country in spring and summer 2009 and indicated that most participants were "highly critical" of the program.

The cost of the new system was not immediately available, but the USDA indicated it will work with existing disease-control programs and allow identification means such as branding, metal tags and radio frequency identification tags.



Committee bulletins

Bowie

- Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported that the backstretch passed the recent Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) inspection "with flying colors."

Horsemen are to be commended for complying with MDE guidelines.

Please keep up the good work!

- Maintenance has done everything possible to clear snow in a timely manner.

- Potholes continue to be repaired.

Laurel

- Chairman Larry Murray reported that the receiving barn roof collapsed from the snow load. Fortunately, no injuries resulted from the cave-in.

The barn remains unusable, and horses shipping in to race are being housed in empty stalls throughout the stable area.

- Six training days were lost to snow as of February 14—a relatively small number, under the circumstances.

Thoroughbred Charities of America accepting grant applications

Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA), the largest non-profit organization in the Thoroughbred industry, is currently accepting grant applications.

Applications must be postmarked by April 1.

TCA's mission is to provide a better life for Thoroughbreds, both during and after their racing careers.

The TCA supports more than 200 charitable organizations involved in Thoroughbred rescue, retirement, re-

training, research, education and backstretch programs. It has granted more than \$16 million in the past 19 years. For more information, go to www.thoroughbredcharities.org.

Maryland Horse Radio moves to Baltimore's ESPN RADIO 1300 AM



Stan Salter and Maggie Wolfendale

Maryland Horse Radio, founded in 2004 by co-host Stan Salter, has moved to a new station and new time slot.

Hour-long shows, beginning at 6 p.m., are broadcast each Tuesday on Baltimore's ESPN RADIO 1300 AM.

The move dramatically increases exposure for the program, which features a news round-up as well as interviews with prominent figures in the horse world. It previously aired on WBIS 1190

AM in Annapolis.

Major sponsorship comes from Laurel Park/Maryland Jockey Club and XpressBet.

"ESPN is the most recognized sports brand in existence," said Mr. Salter. "We are greatly encouraged by their interest, and by the support from all the people who helped to make this happen."

Both Mr. Salter and Ms. Wolfendale are lifelong horsepeople who graduated from Towson State University after receiving financial aid from the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund (a program that the MTHA helps to maintain).

Mr. Salter is a racing official at the Maryland tracks, and Ms. Wolfendale, who was Miss Preakness in 2008, has a key role in the training operation of her parents, Howard and Tammy Wolfendale.

For more information visit www.marylandhorseradio.com.

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph S. Caviness, 60, a longtime backstretch employee, died on January 19 at the age of 60. He was a brother of former trainer Tom Caviness.

Jesse Davidson, a Maryland-based jockey whose career was marked by extreme highs and lows, died on January 16 at the age of 69.

Mr. Davidson led the nation by number of wins (319) in 1965 and made a total of 3,035 trips to the winner's circle in his career. His grandsons Brandon and Grant Whitacre are currently riding races.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

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The Horsemen's Newsletter reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland. Your suggestions are welcome.

Georganne sends thanks

Georganne Hale, Maryland Jockey Club Director of Racing, commended track maintenance and horsemen for their extraordinary efforts during the February snows:

Thanks to David Whitman and crew, Tony Edwards and crew, and Ben Harrison and crew, for the excellent job they did working around the clock to keep the track, roads and stable areas clear and safe.

Appreciation also goes to all of the horsemen for being so helpful and patient during this difficult time!

JIM MCCUE

Recreation report

From Dan Mangum, MTHA Recreation Director. (410) 802-5798.

Bowling

The bowling tournament has been postponed until Monday, March 22 because of the snow.

Basketball

Basketball will resume on Sunday, February 21 at Meade High School in Laurel.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Jack Adamicz, Gene Gilhooly, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, John Marshall, Richard Meyer, Herb and Miriam Mittenthal, and Frank and Ginny Wright.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Park Now through April 10

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM
(410) 392-5555

Two-Year-Olds in Training May 17, 18
Eastern Fall Yearlings Oct. 4, 5
(Entries close July 12)

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Fasig-Tipton Florida Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training
Calder Race Course, Miami, Fla.
(859) 255-1555 March 2

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Adena Springs Two-Year-Olds in Training
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 March 15

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 March 16, 17

Keeneland Two-Year-Olds in Training
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 April 5

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Spring Two-Year-Olds in Training
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 April 19-22

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July Selected Yearlings Lexington, Ky.
(859) 255-1555 July 13, 14

Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected Yearlings Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800 Aug. 2, 3

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected/Open Yearlings
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 Aug. 24-27

Keeneland September Yearlings
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 Sept. 13-26