



The Horsemen's Newsletter

August 2011

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Stronach Takes Full Control of MJC: 2012 Dates Not Assured

The co-owners of Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course have ended their tumultuous one-year partnership, leaving Maryland's Thoroughbred race tracks with a single owner.

Penn National Gaming agreed to sell its minority stake in the Maryland Jockey Club to horse owner and breeder Frank Stronach.

The transaction allows Penn Gaming to divest itself of an investment that soured shortly after the company bought the 49 percent stake in the two tracks early in 2010.

The stake was transferred to Stron-MJC Limited Partnership on June 30.

After the transaction closed, Stron-MJC was granted a racing license by the Maryland Racing Commission for the remainder of 2011. However, company representative Greg Avioli was non-committal on next year's race dates during July's MRC meeting.

This is in stark contrast to the agreement hammered out in April when the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation requiring 146 days of live racing per year through 2013. In return for these race date assurances, the state agreed to divert up to \$6 million annually in slots revenue allocated for racetrack improvements to help support the day-to-day operations of the Maryland Jockey Club. Additionally the MTHA allotted over \$1.5 million toward operating expenses for 2011.

Lucy Acton – Maryland racing advocate – gone too soon

Lucy Acton, the writer and publisher of this newsletter for the last 21 years and editor of the award-winning *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, died Tuesday, June 7. She was 63.

A respected journalist throughout the regional horse industry and beyond, Acton remained dedicated to its causes almost to the very end. Diagnosed with a rare form of cancer several years ago, she underwent surgery and treatment and continued working with typical vigor, cheer and quiet determination. She officially resigned from the *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* June 1 and died six days later.

Acton served as longtime secretary of the Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA) and, for a number of years, wrote a weekly breeding column for *Daily Racing Form*.

Acton received Pimlico's Old Hilltop Award in

2006 for covering racing with excellence and distinction. The year before, MRMA had presented her its first Unsung Hero Award for her behind-the-scenes accomplishments throughout the Maryland Thoroughbred industry.

"Lucy was a dear friend to not only Maryland horsemen but to the entire Maryland racing community," commented MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "Her hard work, dedication and loyalty to the MTHA will be dearly missed."

In addition to her two children, Jonathan and Katherine, Lucy leaves two brothers, Bruce and George, and her former husband, Jon.



MRMA Scholarship Apps Due September 23, 2011

September 23 is the deadline to apply for aid from the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund for 2011.

Individuals employed on the backstretch at Maryland tracks, or farms, training centers or veterinary clinics in Maryland, and enrolled this fall in college or graduate school, will be considered for these scholarships.

More than \$30,000 is available this year through the fund, which is supported by various industry groups and individuals, including the MTHA and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund.

For more information call (443) 279-8982 or visit www.mdhorsemen.com and click on scholarship application.





MTHA Board of Directors 2011-2014

W. ROBERT BAILES



Elected to his first term as a MTHA Board member, Robbie Bailes has trained a successful public stable in Maryland for over 20 years.

Mr. Bailes' best runner to date has been graded stakes winner Scrapy T, the runner-up in the 2005 Preakness picked out and purchased by the trainer as a 2-year-old at OBS in Florida.

H. NEIL GLASSER



An MTHA Board member since 2005, Neil Glasser is one of Maryland's longest active owners. Retired from Chateau Builders, the new home building and site development firm he founded

over 40 years ago, he bought his first horse in 1971. His top runners include stakes winners Sheeler and Coolmars.

R. LARRY JOHNSON



Larry Johnson, a first time MTHA Board member, is the owner of Legacy Farm of Bluemont, Va.

Mr. Johnson has a stable of 25 race horses with conditioner Mike Trombetta based at Laurel Park.

Larry was also elected earlier this year to his first term to serve on the MHBA Board.

HOWARD M. BENDER



Howard Bender has served on the MTHA Board for the last 18 years and is Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Bender and his wife, Sondra, have about 30 horses based at Laurel Park and

maintain one of the largest and most successful racing stables in Maryland, an operation composed almost exclusively by homebreds.

CHRISTOPHER W. GROVE



Chris Grove has risen to the top of the training profession in the last several years and topped the standings in Maryland in 2010. He has 50 horses in his stable at Bowie for 15 different owners. Past

and current stable stars include millionaire Silmaril and Barbara Fritchie Stakes-G2 winner Sweet Goodbye.

TIMOTHY L. KEEFE



A member of the MTHA Board since 2005, Tim Keefe is one of Maryland's most successful trainers, conditioning such runners as stakes winners Celtic Innis, Eighttofastcatch and Red's Round Table.

Tim also serves on the Boards of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund and Maryland Million.

CHRISTINE E. BRICKER



An active MTHA member for many years, Chris Bricker has been elected to her first term on the MTHA Board.

Ms. Bricker became a Thoroughbred owner in 1997 and has a small operation, breeding her own horses to race.

An engineer by profession, Ms. Bricker is employed by Northrop Grumman.

ARNOLD A. HEFT



Arnold Heft is among Maryland's most active and successful owners. He and his wife, Sylvia, have campaigned many winners and several stakes winners during more than 23 years in

racing, with stable stars including Pulverizing, Baldski's Choice, He Is Risen, Ace's Orphan, Eighttofastcatch and Red's Round Table.

RICHARD J. MEYER



The MTHA's Vice President since 2002 and a Board member since 1989, Rich Meyer is Chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee. He also serves as President of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, Inc. (a group that works closely

with the MTHA), and is a member of the Maryland State Fair Board.

DALE CAPUANO



Dale Capuano, a MTHA Board member since 1996, serves as chairman of the Negotiating Committee, handling the purse and stakes allocations.

Mr. Capuano has led Maryland's training ranks eight times and has to his credit 31 meet titles. He is also the all-time leading trainer in the Maryland Million.

RICHARD J. HOFFBERGER



Richard Hoffberger has served as President of the MTHA since the organization's founding.

An active owner/breeder, Mr. Hoffberger is deeply involved with racing—as a horseman, a horsemen's representative and a businessman. He is president of The Hoffberger Insurance Group among other industry ventures.

LAWRENCE E. MURRAY



Larry Murray, whose experience covers a wide variety of equine endeavours, is the private trainer for Sondra and Howard Bender's large and successful racing stable and general manager of their Glade Valley Farm, where he makes his home along with his wife of over 30 years, Janice.

LINDA S. GAUDET



Linda Gaudet, a member of the MTHA Board since its inception, is involved in nearly every facet of racing.

Mrs. Gaudet serves on the Maryland Racing Commission's Medication Committee,

is a Director of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund and is chair of MTHA's Backstretch & Safety Committee for Bowie.

MICHAEL F. HORNING



A first time Board member, Michael Horning comes from a family that has been breeding and racing horses in Maryland for over 40 years.

A graduate of John Carroll University with a degree in accounting, Mr. Horning is part-owner of several family owned horses trained by his brother Larry.

KATHARINE M. VOSS



Katy Voss has been a trainer in Maryland for over 40 years and played a role in the founding of the MTHA in 1987. The longtime Board member currently serves on the Negotiating Committee.

Ms. Voss is also a Board member and Secretary-Treasurer of Maryland Million Ltd. and serves as a Director Emeritus of the MHBA.



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ted to the 146-day schedule for next year.

Mr. Stronach has repeatedly stated his desire to sit down with all industry stakeholders. He has a willing partner in the MTHA to map out a plan to create a better business model under current hard-fought agreements. In the meantime, those days that were agreed to this past year are as important to us today as they were last winter, and we will continue to advocate for them.

/Richard J. Hoffberger, MTHA President

MRMA to honor Acton, Motion and Hoffberger

The Maryland Racing Media Association's annual Crab Feast is set for Saturday, October 22 in the Carriage Room at Laurel Park, from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund recipients will receive their checks that evening. In addition, MRMA will present its Humphrey S. Finney award posthumously to Lucy Acton, newsmaker award to H. Graham Motion and the achievement award to MTHA president Richard J. Hoffberger.

The menu includes all-you-can-eat crabs, plus a buffet featuring chicken and side dishes, as well as beer, wine and soft drinks. For ticket information, contact Stan Salter at (443) 279-8982.

Recreation Report

From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.

Softball results

The owners and trainers recently defeated the jockeys, 9 to 7, in a softball game played at Laurel. The owner/trainers who participated, to name a few, were Robbie Bailes, Ferris Allen, Tim Tullock, Tony Acuirre, Rick Sweeney, Jay Burtis, Jackie Savoye, who were coached by J.D. Brown. Jockeys participating, among others, were Sheldon Russell, Malcom Franklin, Forest Boyce, and Josh Navarro. The grudge game is being planned for this fall at Laurel.

Orioles ticket drawings

There is one more drawing scheduled for the remaining two sets of

Orioles tickets. This package includes two tickets and a free parking pass.

The next drawing will be held at Laurel on September 10.

Golf outing

The MTHA is sponsoring a golf outing at Courses at Fort Meade for Monday, September 26. Check-in will be at 10 a.m., shotgun start will be at 11 a.m. Sign up in the track kitchens.

Donations

The following generous people recently made donations of clothing, reading material and other items for distribution on the backstretch: Gene Gilhooly, Ruthanne Lillis, Herb and Miram Mittenthal and Christine Bricker.

In Memoriam

Øivind "Ivin" Kyelstrup passed away on July 11. Ivin was a longtime employee of Rodney Jenkins and the husband of Mr. Jenkins' current employee Eveline Kyelstrup.

TCA Makes Donation To Assistance Fund

Thoroughbred Charities of America has awarded a grant to the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, Inc., the organization that provides medical care and other benefits for backstretch employees in need.



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.

Board Actions

The MTHA Board voted unanimously to hire David Richardson commencing July 1, 2011.

Richardson has vast experience in the Maryland racing community. A former partner in the equine-specific Hayden Advertising marketing firm, he was also

the long-time business manager for David and JoAnn Hayden's Dark Hollow Farm in Upperco, MD. As president of the Maryland Racing Media Association from 2001-2011, he led tremendous growth with the scholarship program that benefits backstretch employees.

Horsemen's Calendar

RACING

Timonium Aug. 26-28; Sept. 2-5
Laurel Park Sept. 9 through Dec. 17

**MARYLAND MILLION DAY
OCTOBER 1, LAUREL PARK**

**FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC
AUCTIONS**

AT TIMONIUM (410) 392-5555

Eastern Fall Yearling Oct. 4, 5
December Mixed Dec. 5

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Keeneland Sept. Yearlings, Lexington, Ky.
(800) 456-3412 Sept. 11-24
OBS Fall Mixed, Ocala, Fla.
(352) 237-2154 Oct. 18-21
Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings, Lexington, Ky.
(859) 255-1555 Oct. 24-26
Fasig-Tipton The November Sale, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555.. Nov. 6, 7
Keeneland November Breeding Stock, Lexington, Ky.
(800) 456-3412 Nov. 6-19



Backstretch Appreciation Day

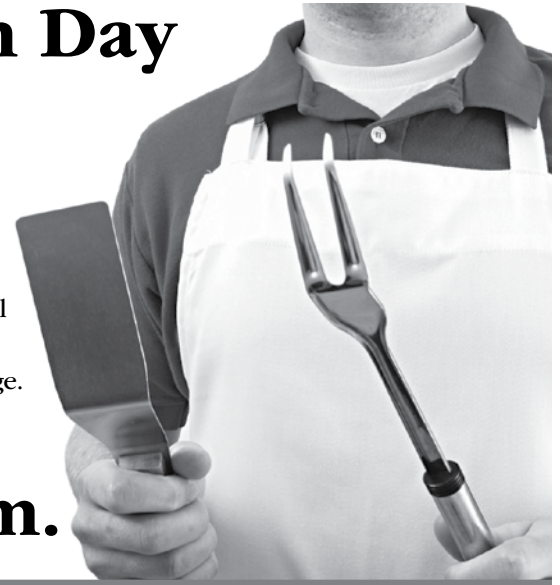
Food, fun and fellowship will highlight the MTHA's Backstretch Appreciation Day on September 25 at Laurel Park. The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the white house area adjacent to the Racing Office/Paddock area.

Everyone's favorites will be served: pit beef and roasted pork, chicken and salads, catered by Russell Clark. Soda will also be provided. DJ music from Absolute Entertainment will set the atmosphere, and door prizes will be distributed.

All backstretch personnel and their families are invited to attend free of charge.

Backstretch Appreciation Day honors the unsung heroes of our industry.

September 25th • 1-4 p.m.



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

August 2011

Thoughts and Comments

The Maryland Jockey Club is once again under the direction of a single ownership, Stron-MJC (Frank Stronach's new racing entity). Gone are the days of management's instability that included a struggle between two competing camps on the future of Maryland Racing.

In an attempt to bring some stability to the state's racing industry, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation earlier this year requiring 146 days of live racing through 2013, in return for some financial relief. These race days are the lifeblood that sustain racing and breeding in our state.

Both the MTHA and the "new" owners must resist the urge to modify the agreements that were painstakingly created last winter. After the contracts were signed last fall, we collectively thought that the three-year time frame would be used to develop a new and better plan for our racing schedule and for the track to outline their marketing activity for the future.

We thought that any new plan would take a few years to develop and implement. The "new" Stronach organization has not yet committed

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MTHA Board of Directors

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Lawrence E. Murray

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