



Hoofprints

1099s available online

Horsemen are reminded that account information, including 1099 forms for 2006, is available online.

The InCompass computer system in the Horsemen's Bookkeeper's office provides online access 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This service is facilitated by the MTHA.

To sign up for account access, call the bookkeeper's office at (410) 792-7775 or (301) 725-0400.

Cole, Lake take year-end titles

Robert L. Cole, Jr., and Scott Lake ranked as the leading owner and trainer

in Maryland in 2006.

Mr. Cole, honored by the MTHA as outstanding Maryland owner, concluded the season with 49 wins from 116 starts at Maryland tracks, a winning ratio of 42.2 percent. On the national list, he ranked third by wins and among the top 10 by earnings.

The nation's leading trainer by wins (with a total of 528), Mr. Lake recorded 114 wins at Laurel and Pimlico. He captured the training title at three of the four meets, while scoring with 29.01 percent of his starts, the best percentage of any Maryland trainer.

WBAL wins Eclipse Award

WBAL Radio in Baltimore won an Eclipse Award for its coverage of the 2006 Preakness.

This is the seventh Eclipse Award for the station, which also took honors in 1978, '81, '84, '97, '01 and '04.

Naming deadline: February 1

The Jockey Club reminds owners that a valid attempt to name foals of 2005 must be made by February 1, to avoid a \$75 late fee. To submit names, or find more information, visit www.jockeyclub.com.



MTHA

6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

January 2007

Thoughts and comment

All of the major racing states surrounding us now have slots, which puts Maryland in a difficult position, to say the least.

The situation looks bleak. But our industry remains strong, largely through the efforts of hard-working and talented horsemen and track management who, through great effort and determination, produce some of the best racing in America.

The task force known as Keep It In Maryland, or KIM, is working to enhance our industry's strengths and overcome some of its weaknesses during these troubled times.

KIM was the brainchild of our current Maryland Racing Commission Chairman John P. McDaniel (who orchestrated last year's agreement between the Thoroughbred and harness interests).

Already, KIM has accomplished its immediate goal of identifying the key issues. These findings will be presented to the governor and the legislature in the near future.

Highlights include:

- The desperate need for greatly enhanced purses and breeders' funds—

See *Thoughts*, page 3

MTHA Board of Directors

Richard J. Hoffberger

President

Richard J. Meyer

Vice President

John V. Alecci

Howard M. Bender

Dale Capuano

Phillip L. Capuano

William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr.

Linda S. Gaudet

H. Neil Glasser

Arnold A. Heft

Timothy L. Keefe

Lawrence E. Murray

John J. Robb

Valora A. Testerman

Katharine M. Voss



The Horsemen's Newsletter

January 2007

Volume 17 • Number 1

MJC's 2006 wagering figures don't tell the whole story

While the 2006 wagering figures released in early January by the Maryland Jockey Club showed a positive trend in business, they don't change the fact that Maryland's purses are lagging behind those in surrounding states.

"What they do indicate is that Maryland is holding its own in these difficult times. Much of the credit for that goes to our local horsemen, who deliver a high-quality racing product on a daily basis," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger.

Handle on Maryland's simulcast signal at out-of-state locations rose dramatically, and the in-state live handle increased by a small percentage.

"It's a tribute to the loyalty, and the professionalism, of our owners and trainers," noted Mr. Hoffberger. "The racing office, and in particular Racing Secretary Georganne Hale, also had an instrumental role in developing a product that we can all take pride in.

"All of us are heartened that out-of-state fans enjoy betting on our races, and we sincerely hope this trend continues. But the situation in regard to our purses remains dire."

Ponies up

Trainers are urged to school young horses with a lead pony.

A young horse who is unfamiliar with ponies can be difficult for the out-rider—and his pony—to handle when there is a need to do so. This creates a hazardous situation on the track.

KIM makes initial report to Racing Commission

Prospects for a slots bill during the current legislative session "don't look good," stated John B. Franzone, the Commission member serving as chairman of the Keep It In Maryland (KIM) task force, in the group's initial report presented at the January 9 meeting of the Maryland Racing Commission.

However, Mr. Franzone indicated that KIM will urge state leaders to approve a substantial enhancement to purses and breeders' funds, to allow this state's racing and breeding industry to survive until revenue from expanded gaming becomes available. (See Mr.

Franzone's Thoughts and comment on page 4.)

Following Mr. Franzone's report, Commission members and industry representatives discussed the issues at length, all agreeing upon the severity of the economic pressures.

"The industry needs help *this year*," warned MTHA counsel Alan Foreman, who serves on the KIM task force. "That is the message we'll be taking to Annapolis. If something is not done immediately, many of our horsemen will leave. Once they're gone, it won't matter what happens. They won't come back."

Immigration reform legislation could alleviate problems for horse industry

The MTHA, along with other horsemen's groups throughout the country, is paying close attention to legislation introduced in Congress on January 10 that would lead to comprehensive reform of the nation's immigration laws for agricultural workers.

The American Horse Council (AHC) reports that the legislation, known as the AgJobs bill, would satisfy most of the concerns of the horse industry regarding the H-2A Agricultural Worker program that allows agricultural workers to enter the United States to do seasonal labor.

Many backstretch workers are in the

MTHA provides assistance

The MTHA, as in past years, has arranged the services of immigration experts who can help backstretch employees obtain a working visa. The visas allow individuals to legally work for Maryland owner/trainers and also to obtain a valid Social Security card.

This program is conducted through the California-based law offices of Martin J. Arburua. For specific questions, Maryland horsemen are urged to contact the law office directly at (858) 259-8860.

U.S. under this program.

Bills have been introduced in the Senate by Dianne Feinstein (D, Calif.) and Larry Craig (R, Idaho) and in the House by Howard Berman (D, Calif.) and Chris Cannon (R, Utah).

Along with other changes, the pro-

Immigration, page 2



Philadelphia Park slots handle \$175.2 million in first three weeks

Business has been brisk on Philadelphia Park's slots floors, which opened on December 19.

Pennsylvania's first Thoroughbred racino, Philadelphia Park has 2,076 machines, which reportedly handled \$175.2 million on slots during the first three weeks. That figure translated into gross revenue of more than \$15.1 million—of which \$1.8 million will be directed to purses at Pennsylvania tracks.

During the same period, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, which opened in November as Pennsylvania's first slots facility, generated approximately \$98 million in slots wagers for gross revenue of more than \$9 million.

Under the law governing Pennsylvania's slots program, 12 percent of the gross revenue goes toward purses, the breeding fund and horsemen's health, benevolence and pension programs.

Eventually, seven race tracks and five stand-alone sites will operate slots emporiums in that state, but Pocono Downs and Philadelphia Park are the only two currently in operation. Within the next several months, three sites are expected to open their doors—Harrah's at Chester Downs in Chester, Presque Isle Downs in Erie and The Meadows in Washington County.

Penn National's slots area is scheduled for completion in late 2007.

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board's Web site provides weekly reports on gaming revenues at www.pgcb.state.pa.us.

Pension sign-up time coming soon

Annual registration for the MTHA's Backstretch Pension Program begins in March. Exact dates will appear in next month's newsletter.

The plan is open to all individuals employed in the care of horses on the backstretch.

Employees do not make financial contributions to the plan. However, registration is required every year.

JIM MCCUE



Grover G. (Bud) Delp: Maryland trainer made his bid for lasting fame

Grover G. (Bud) Delp, the Maryland-based Hall of Fame trainer who guided the career of superstar Spectacular Bid, died on December 29 at the age of 74.

Mr. Delp, who came up under the employ of his late stepfather, longtime horseman Raymond Archer, achieved success with all levels of horses, from lowly claimers to consistent top performers, and is credited with 3,674 career wins (ninth on the all-time list). He developed 70 stakes winners. But for many racing followers, his name is linked with only one horse—Spectacular Bid.

A three-time champion who won the 1979 Kentucky Derby and Preakness, and came back the following year to earn Horse of the Year honors, Spectacular Bid, trained by Delp throughout his career, earned \$2,781,608 while winning 26 of his 30 starts, including 23 stakes wins.

Delp received the Eclipse Award as the nation's leading trainer of 1980, and was inducted into racing's Hall of Fame in 2002.

The best horse trained by him in recent years was Include, winner of the 2001 Pimlico Special.

Mr. Delp's survivors include his wife, Regina, and son Cleve, who are carrying on his stable; and his brother Richard, who retired several years ago after a long and successful career as a trainer in Maryland.

Horsemen's Counseling Program offers confidential drug-testing

Trainers are reminded of the drug-testing services available through the Horsemen's Counseling Program.

Bill Borchardt, coordinator of the program, encourages trainers to contact him for confidential drug-screening services at the following times:

- Upon hiring a new employee.
- As a follow-up to earlier positive drug tests.
- When an employee is injured on the job.
- Whenever impairment is suspected.

"Trainers should keep in mind that they are actually doing the employee a favor by sending him to us," said Mr. Borchardt, who provides both testing and counseling through the University of Maryland Employee's Assistance Program.

Mr. Borchardt will make special arrangements to meet with individuals who need immediate services.

For more information contact Mr. Borchardt at (301) 776-0404; (410) 542-4040; or (410) 368-5570 (pager).

Immigration, from page 1

posed reform would:

- Streamline the admission process.
- Create a process by which workers could be authorized to stay for a longer period.
- Provide for a secure identity and work authorization document for H-2A aliens.

The legislation now before Congress is the same bill that the Senate passed in

2006.

Concluded the AHC: "Immigration reform legislation has been debated through the last several Congresses. It is complicated legislation that generates a great deal of emotion.

"Whether a final bill can be passed remains to be seen, but at this point the AgJobs bill seems to have the broadest and most bipartisan support."

Thoughts and comment, from page 4

hopefully from slots, but if not, then from some form of state enhancement.

- The need for marketing funds to compete with our state lottery and the slots-enriched racing programs in bordering states.
- Improved facilities for our customers.

We will urge state leaders to approve an enhancement of at least \$30 million during the current legislative session, while we await expanded gaming that will put us, once again, on a level playing field with our neighbors.

/John B. Franzone, Maryland Racing Commission Member and Chairman of Keep It In Maryland

IN MEMORIAM

Alan H. Anthony, Sr., a longtime owner/breeder, died December 12. He was 81. A retired insurance executive, Mr. Anthony was the proprietor of New Horizon Farm in Lisbon along with his wife, Anne Anthony, and son Alan H. (Chip) Anthony, Jr.

Mr. Anthony campaigned five stakes winners during a long and productive association with trainers Vernon Allinson, Ferris Allen and Ken Cox.

Prominent Pennsylvania horseman **Richard I.G. Jones** died January 11 at the age of 68. Mr. Jones and his brother, Russell Jones, Jr., operated Walnut Green Bloodstock for more than two decades.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published monthly by the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

6314 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207; (410) 265-6842;

fax (410) 265-6841;

e-mail: mdhorsemen@erols.com

Web site: www.mdhorsemen.com

The Horsemen's Newsletter

reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland.

Your suggestions are welcome.



Church provides outreach program for backstretch employees

Pastor Dago Dupuy of Igesia Critiana Marantha, a church in Laurel, provides outreach services to backstretch employees.

The program includes Bible studies on Thursdays and church services on Sundays. A free round-trip shuttle departs from the Laurel Park stablegate at 7 p.m. on Thursday and at 4:45 p.m. on Sunday.

Also, on the last Saturday of every month, beginning January 27, Pastor Dupuy will conduct church services in the recreation room of the track kitchen at Laurel Park.

Everyone on the backstretch is invited to attend any of these services.

For more information call Pastor Dupuy at (301) 490-2208.

Committee bulletins

Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- Special appreciation goes to Anthony Fulco, who donated a sofa for the track kitchen.
- A new heating unit has been installed in the track kitchen.
- The race track and Hacienda are in good condition.
- Roof repairs have been completed

on several barns.

Pimlico

Backstretch chairman Lori Testerman reported:

- Trainers and riders are reminded that horses should not be taken onto the track while the hazard lights are flashing (warning of a loose horse or other serious problem).
- Rodents and pigeons are a major concern.

Recreation report

From Dan Mangum, MTHA Recreation Director (410) 437-4405

Basketball

Basketball continues on Sundays at Meade High School in Laurel from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Cheryl Carton, Gene Gilhooly, Georganne Hale, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Mary and Dave Siuta and Jillian Sofarelli.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Now through April 15; Aug. 10 through Aug. 23; Sept. 5 through Dec. 31

Pimlico April 19 through June 9

Timonium Aug. 24 through Sept. 3

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

Winter Mixed Feb. 5

Two-Year-Olds in Training May 21, 22

Entries close Feb. 15

Two-Year-Olds in Training and Horse of Racing Age June 26

Entries close May 18

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Winter Mixed Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. Feb. 11, 12

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. Feb. 13

Fasig-Tipton Florida Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training Calder Race Course, Miami, Fla. (859) 255-1555. March 6

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Adena Springs Two-Year-Olds in Training Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. March 26

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. March 27, 28

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Spring Two-Year-Olds in Training Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. April 24-27

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Two-Year-Olds and Horses of Racing Age Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. June 19, 20

Check the MTHA Web site at www.mdhorsemen.com for notice of the next Board Meeting