



The Horsemen's Newsletter

November 2008

Volume 18 • Number 11

RESOUNDING VICTORY FOR SLOTS!

November 4, 2008, will be recalled as a historic day for Maryland racing.

With a record number of Marylanders going to the polls, a resounding 59 percent majority voted in favor of the referendum to authorize a constitutional amendment allowing 15,000 video lottery terminals (slot machines) at five locations in the state.

When the referendum passed, the slots program created in last year's special session of the Maryland General Assembly immediately took effect.

That program directs 5.6 percent of the revenue from each slots site to Thoroughbred horsemen and breeders. Based on the projections of state ana-

See *Slots victory*, page 2

The ONLY PAC promoting the entire Maryland Thoroughbred industry

The MTHA is the only organization currently raising funds for a Political Action Committee (PAC) that promotes Maryland's entire Thoroughbred industry.

Your generous support for the Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC will enable us to contribute to the election campaigns of state officials who have demonstrated willingness to support our industry.

This will mean a brighter future for us all.

Please make checks payable to Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT OF DONATION

\$100 \$250

\$500 other

Send checks to MTHA, 6314 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207

By authority Wayne W. Wright, Treasurer



MTHA's 22nd Annual Christmas Party and Awards Ceremony

December 1, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Carriage Room at Laurel

Tickets may be purchased on race days at the MTHA Office at Laurel Park for \$30 in advance, or at the door for \$40

MTHA awards will be presented to:

Outstanding Maryland Owner
C. ROBERT HAYNES'S ROB RY FARM
AND JAYNE MARIE SLYSZ

Outstanding Maryland Trainer
SCOTT A. LAKE

Outstanding Backstretch Employees

*Bowie—Carlos A. Mancilla,
employed by Chris Grove*

*Laurel—Catherine Thompson,
employed by Katy Voss*

*Pimlico—Camilo Damian,
employed by Holly Robinson*



Maryland under quarantine due to outbreak of EHV-1

Maryland tracks will remain under a limited quarantine until at least December 5, due to an outbreak of equine herpesvirus (EHV-1).

A full-scale quarantine took effect on November 14, the day after a 2-year-old filly in Barn 1 tested positive for EHV-1. The Maryland Department of Agriculture immediately placed a Hold Order on the barn when testing indicated that Nin, trained by King Leatherbury, was suffering from the disease. The filly was later euthanized.

On November 18, after tests on all of the other horses in Barn 1 came back with negative results, the Maryland Jockey Club announced tentative plans to ease the restrictions.

If no other cases of EHV-1 appeared, Laurel and Bowie were set to begin ac-

See *Quarantine*, page 3

Registration check-off to help provide for retired race horses

Foal registration applications submitted to The Jockey Club on or after January 1, 2009, will include a voluntary check-off for directing contributions to two organizations that provide post-racing care for Thoroughbreds.

The Jockey Club will match the check-off on a dollar-to-dollar basis up to \$200,000 in 2009.

Check-off proceeds and matching funds will be distributed to the Thoroughbred Charities of America and Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation.

Thoroughbred breeders will have the option of selecting one of four graduated amounts (\$25, \$50, \$75 or \$100) to be designated for these Thoroughbred after-care programs or they may fill in the amount of their choice on the Application for Foal Registration form.

These contributions will not qualify as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

For more information visit www.jockeyclub.com.

Slots victory, from page 1

lysts, slots revenue could boost Thoroughbred purses by approximately \$60 million within the next four years.

"We could not be more pleased with the outcome of the referendum," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "Significantly, slots won approval in every jurisdiction, among Democrats and Republicans."

Added Mr. Hoffberger: "It would never have happened without the masterful job carried out by the ballot committee For Maryland for Our Future and its chairman, Fred Puddester, or the consulting group Independent Strategies, led by Craig Varoga. These people deserve our utmost appreciation."

The MTHA committed major financial resources toward the passage of the referendum—disbursing \$400,000 from the Purse Account to help support the efforts of For Maryland For Our Future.

"Allocation of these funds was not a matter to be taken lightly in these tough economic times," said Mr. Hoffberger. "But the MTHA board voted unanimously, and in hindsight it certainly appears to have been a wise decision."

Implementation of the slots program will not be immediate.

A commission will be established in the near future to determine the licensees and locations. The committee will be composed of seven members: three appointed by Governor Martin O'Malley, two appointed by Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, and two appointed by House Speaker Michael E. Busch.

Bids for licenses must be submitted to the commission by February 1, 2009.

Under the constitutional amendment, only two race tracks are eligible to be slots sites: Laurel Park and Ocean Downs. Slots may only be placed at the following locations:

- Anne Arundel County, within two miles of Maryland Route 295.
- Cecil County within two miles of I-95.
- Worcester County within one mile of Route 50 and Route 589.
- Allegany County, state property located within Rocky Gap State Park.
- Baltimore City, in a non-residential area within a half-mile of Maryland Route 295 on property owned by the city.

Unofficial vote count: every jurisdiction favors slots

These are totals as of November 15. Official results are expected to be posted by November 25 on the Maryland State Board of Elections Web site at www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2008/questions/general/Statewide_Ballot_Question_Results.html.

	FOR	AGAINST
Allegany County	18,152	10,537
Anne Arundel County	149,604	103,814
Baltimore City	137,612	95,429
Baltimore County	217,182	152,221
Calvert County	26,905	15,826
Caroline County	8,052	4,766
Carroll County	49,030	34,279
Cecil County	25,897	15,676
Charles County	43,615	24,683
Dorchester County	8,705	5,555
Frederick County	67,206	40,725
Garrett County	6,306	6,094
Harford County	74,248	46,806
Howard County	80,626	60,593
Kent County	5,835	3,715
Montgomery County	212,148	192,964
Prince George's County	204,555	140,268
Queen Anne's County	14,345	9,121
St. Mary's County	26,998	15,884
Somerset County	5,959	3,251
Talbot County	10,116	9,558
Washington County	38,986	19,707
Wicomico County	26,292	13,286
Worcester County	14,706	11,967
TOTALS	1,473,080	1,036,725

Quarantine, from page 2

cepting shippers on November 25.

Still, no horses—including any new arrivals—will be allowed to ship out of the Maryland tracks until December 5 (with the exception of those stabled at Bowie and traveling to race at Laurel).

“We compliment the Maryland Jockey Club, and in particular [president and chief operating officer] Tom Chuckas and [director of racing] Georganne Hale, for their prompt and responsible handling of the situation,”

Free rabies vaccinations for cats

Dr. James M. Casey, a veterinarian as well as a trainer, provides free rabies vaccinations for cats.

To arrange for this service, contact Dr. Casey at Barn D in the International Village at Laurel Park.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles (Whitey) Wheeler, an owner/trainer who raced horses at tracks throughout the Mid-Atlantic region for more than four decades, died on September 19. He was 91.

Kenny Ebersole, who launched his career in his native Maryland and operated a lead pony business at Tampa Bay Downs for many years, died on October 9 at the age of 52.

Tally Pappas, 52, a lifelong Maryland horsewoman employed since 1993 by Fasig-Tipton Midlantic, died on October 12. Ms. Pappas supervised the repository at Fasig-Tipton auctions in New York, Florida and Texas, as well as in Maryland.

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.

said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. “The Maryland Department Agriculture and its chief veterinarian, Dr. Guy Hohenhaus, also deserve appreciation.”

Mr. Hoffberger also urged trainers to consult with their own veterinarians and take appropriate steps to minimize risks of any future EHV-1 spread.

While there is currently no reliable

Recreation report

From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.

Basketball

There are still a few openings in the winter basketball league.

If you're interested, call Dan at (410) 802-5798 as soon as possible. Games will be played on Sunday evenings at Meade High School in Laurel, beginning in January.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Charles Fawley, Gene Gilhooly, Georganne Hale, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Fran and Lou Raffetto, Jillian Sofarelli and Jerry Stautberg.

Lectures at Equine Medical Center

The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Va., will once again host its annual series of lectures known as “Tuesday Talks.” All lectures will be held at 7 p.m. in the library at the center.

No fee is charged for attending, but seating is limited and pre-registration is required. To register call (703) 771-6843 or e-mail atroppmann@vtu.edu.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Now through Dec. 27
Racing dates for 2009 not yet determined

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM

December Mixed Dec. 8
Two-year-olds in Training May 18, 19
(Entries close Feb. 16)

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Ocala Breeders' Sales Co., Winter Mixed,
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 Jan. 6-9
Keeneland January Horses of All Ages,
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 Jan. 12-17

way to prevent the neurologic form of EHV-1 infection, vaccination can reduce the incidence of the respiratory form of the disease.

Horses who develop neurologic signs often initially experience respiratory illness. The virus is transmitted primarily by direct nose-to-nose contact or contaminated hands, equipment, feed and water. It can also be spread up to 35 feet by airborne droplets.

EHV-1 is not associated with any human health risk.

Winter clothing drive

Donations of winter coats, gloves and hats are much appreciated.

Please think of the backstretch when you have usable warm winter clothing that you no longer wear.

Items may be dropped off at the MTHA office next to the First Aid Room in the grandstand at Laurel Park, or call Dan at (410) 802-5798.

Happy Thanksgiving!

The MTHA, continuing its longstanding tradition, will provide complimentary dinners for all backstretch workers in the Bowie and Laurel track kitchens on Thanksgiving Day.

Check the kitchens for details.

Steroid ban to take effect January 1, 2009

Maryland's ban on anabolic steroids is set to take effect on January 1, 2009.

The system of penalties and grace periods are expected to be announced in the near future, and will appear in next month's issue of this newsletter.

Maryland's new rule mirrors the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium's model rule, and is in line with rules currently in effect in neighboring states, including Pennsylvania.

Testing will be performed on urine, with threshold limits for the following

four substances:

- Stanozolol—1 nanogram per milliliter.
- Nandrolone—1 nanogram per milliliter taken from a gelding, filly or mare.
- Boldenone—15 nanograms per milliliter taken from a colt or horse.
- Testosterone—20 nanograms per milliliter taken from a gelding or 55 nanograms per milliliter taken from a filly or mare.

All other anabolic steroids will be entirely prohibited.



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

November 2008

Thoughts and comment

Maryland's racing industry is back on the road to prosperity, thanks to the large majority of voters who turned out in support of the slots referendum. But we still could encounter bumps along the road—some of them potentially big enough to jolt us to a standstill.

For that reason, I am coming to you with an urgent request: Please contribute generously to the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Political Action Committee. (See page 1.)

Funds from the PAC will be used to support state elected officials who believe in our future, just as we do—and who have provided tangible evidence by

supporting legislation that preserves and promotes Thoroughbred racing.

Maintaining our strong relationship with the leadership in Annapolis will be of utmost importance in the months and years ahead.

When leaders with a track record favorable to racing are reelected, our odds of continued support and success are greatly improved.

The Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC is the *only* Political Action Committee designed to protect our entire industry. It deserves all the support that we can muster.

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

New shoe rule on the way

It is not yet known when the changes will take effect, but the Maryland Racing Commission is pursuing changes regarding shoes.

Language for the proposed rule is as follows:

A horse may not be permitted to start if it has shoes with toe grabs which:

(1) are greater than 2 millimeters in height; or

(2) contain bends, jar calks or any other traction device worn on the front hooves.

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