



The Horsemen's Newsletter

March 2010

Volume 20 • Number 3

Anne Arundel slots issue heads to referendum

The Maryland Jockey Club has turned a corner in its efforts to restore Laurel Park's eligibility as a slots site.

It now appears almost certain that Anne Arundel County voters will be given the option of withdrawing zoning approval for the Cordish Cos. proposed slots site near Arundel Mills Mall.

If the Cordish plan loses its zoning, it's expected that the bidding process for the Anne Arundel slots license will be reopened, giving Laurel the opportunity to submit another bid.

Well over 40,000 signatures were collected in the petition drive to place the zoning issue on the ballot in November.

As of March 11, the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections had certified 19,054 signatures, easily exceeding the required 18,790. Several thousand signatures were still being processed.

"Neither two blizzards nor a baseless lawsuit could deter the groundswell of Anne Arundel County citizens determined to take this matter to referendum," said Heather Ford of Citizens Against Slots at the Mall, which spearheaded the petition drive along with the Maryland Jockey Club.

Cordish Cos., which secured the slots license and zoning after MJC owner Magna Entertainment Corp. failed to submit the required fee in February 2009, has filed suit against the county Board of Elections, alleging fraud in the referendum effort.

Citizen groups, the MJC and Field-Works, the company hired by the MJC to collect signatures, have all filed motions to intervene in the lawsuit.

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Maryland tracks withdrawn from bankruptcy auction

Maryland's track ownership took a sudden twist on March 23, when it was announced that the Maryland Jockey Club would be withdrawn from the Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC) bankruptcy auction then set for March 25 and transferred to Magna's parent company, MI Developments Inc. (MID).

The amended plan remains subject to approval by the bankruptcy court.

MID's interest in retaining the MJC apparently has been bolstered by renewed hopes for slots at Laurel Park (see article on Anne Arundel referendum at left), and by the resolution of a continuing dispute between MEC and former MJC owners Joe and Karin De Francis.

The De Francis family has agreed to resolve the dispute over potential gaming

revenue for a financial settlement totaling approximately \$13 million.

Under the new ownership by MID, the MJC racing operations will be required to reach break-even status within three years.

Terms of the transfer also require any future gaming operations at MJC to be developed as a co-venture with an "experienced and financially secure" company.

"We are cautiously optimistic," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "Ever since the issue of slots first was raised, the MTHA has consistently stated that we believe slots should be at the race track.

"We hope that the recent developments will help this occur, and will create a situation that promotes a quality year-round racing program."

Purse bonus among many attractions at Pimlico spring meet

Pimlico's 2010 meet will offer a wide array of opportunities for horsemen, including a special purse bonus on Black-Eyed Susan Stakes Day (May 14) and Preakness Day (May 15).

The bonus will apply to all dirt races, with the exception of stakes, in which more than eight betting interests start.

A 10 percent bonus will be applied to the total purse if nine betting interests start, 20 percent if 10 betting interests start, 30 percent if 11 betting inter-

ests start and 40 percent if 12 betting interests start. The bonus is capped at 40 percent.

Pimlico backstretch

Open for training: April 10 through May 31

Training hours: 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. daily

Gate schooling: Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

"The bonus represents a cooperative effort between the MTHA's Negotiating Committee and track management," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "We urge local horsemen to support the meet to the fullest extent possible."

Pimlico is set to conduct 20 days of live racing during a six-week span that begins on Saturday, April 17 and ends on Saturday, May 22.



Chick Lang left indelible mark on Maryland racing

JIM MCCUE



Charles J. (Chick) Lang, a major figure within Maryland racing for the past half century, died on March 18 at the age of 83.

Born and raised next to Pimlico Race Course, Mr. Lang began his career as a hotwalker and eventually became the track's general manager known as "Mr. Preakness."

Before joining race track management in 1960, Mr. Lang was a successful jockey's agent, handling the book for Bill Hartack among many others.

Mr. Lang retired from Pimlico in 1987, but continued to work as a national racing consultant until several years ago.

In his retirement he also worked as a racing analyst for WBAL Radio, earning several awards as a journalist and producer, including two Eclipse awards.

Mr. Lang belonged to a family with long-running connections to the sport. He was a great-grandson of Kentucky Derby-winning trainer John Mayberry. His father, Chick Lang, Sr., rode to victory in the 1928 Kentucky Derby aboard Reigh Count. And his late son, Chickie Lang, was publicity director at Pimlico before becoming an executive at Oaklawn Park and Retama Park. Grandson Bart Lang is currently director of racing at Lone Star Park.

Mr. Lang asked to have his ashes spread at Pimlico in the Preakness winner's circle near the cupola. A ceremony is expected to take place either on the opening day of the Pimlico spring meet, April 17, or during Preakness week.

Slots, from page 1

The groups and individual representatives have also filed a motion contending that Cordish's parent company violated a state statute that "prohibits meritless suits brought by large private interests, often real estate developers, to deter ordinary citizens from exercising their political or legal rights."

The slots law enacted in 2008 allows for one slots site within each of five jurisdictions: in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Cecil and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City. Only two race tracks—Laurel Park and Ocean Downs—are eligible to become slots facilities.

Hayden, Grecco appointments to Racing Commission confirmed



David Hayden



Ernest Grecco

Governor Martin O'Malley has reappointed Maryland Racing Commission member David Hayden. Mr. Hayden's appointment was confirmed, along with that of Ernest Grecco.

Each appointment is for a four-year term.

Mr. Hayden, a prominent Maryland owner/breeder, joined the Commission in 2009, filling an unexpired term. Mr. Grecco, an avid racing fan and president of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Unions, also gained appointment to the Commission last year.

The Commission has its full complement of nine members, with the others being John Franzone (chairman), Frank Favazza, John McDaniel, Mary Louise Preis, Charles Tildon, Lou Ulman and Tom Winebrener.

Al Karwacki, longtime Bowie executive, was "one of the good guys"



Al Karwacki, who had continuing rapport with horsemen during his many years as a Bowie Race Course executive, died on March 7

in Brunswick, Ga. He was 78.

Mr. Karwacki worked at Bowie for 26 years, serving as controller and treasurer before moving up to general manager.

"Al was one of the good guys," said

MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "He is recalled fondly by many people from all walks of this industry."

After Bowie closed for racing in 1985, Mr. Karwacki helped to organize Southern California Off-Track Wagering Inc., a company that he ran for 14 years while based at Los Alamitos race course.

He retired to Georgia in 2002.

A Korean War veteran, Mr. Karwacki is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lorraine Karwacki.

Hoofprints

Turf racing starts March 31

Maryland's turf racing season will begin on March 31 at Laurel Park, weather permitting.

Horse tattoos

Trainers needing to have horses tattooed are asked to call Frank Saumell at (410) 419-5872.

New jobs bill benefits owners

Congress has passed a second jobs bill, the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (HIRE Act), extending the expense deduction for assets, including

horses, purchased and placed in service through 2010.

For more information contact the American Horse Council at (202) 296-4031, www.horsecouncil.org.

AHC's Horse Industry Directory

The American Horse Council's 2010 Horse Industry Directory, a comprehensive listing of breed and sport organizations, equine publications, state resources and racing and gaming organizations, is now available.

To purchase a copy (\$25), call (202) 296-4031 or visit www.horsecouncil.org.

Committee bulletins

Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- The track is in good condition.
- Maintenance has done a good job of keeping the backstretch clean.
- The water leak in the Hacienda has been repaired.

• Hopefully, electrical power will be installed in the viewing stand to allow for air conditioning this year.

Laurel

Backstretch chairman Larry Murray said that the collapsed roof on the receiving barn was repaired promptly.



IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Philip J. Torsney, the Red Bank, N.J., physician who campaigned multiple stakes winner and leading Maryland sire Horatius, died on March 7. He was 77. Dr. Torsney was a longtime client of the late Maryland trainer James W. (Jimmy) Murphy.

Hermen Greenberg, a prominent owner/breeder and proprietor of Rutledge Farm in Middleburg, Va., died on February 28 at the age of 89. Mr. Greenberg bred 1993 Belmont Stakes winner Colonial Affair and campaigned numerous stakes winners, including Maryland Million Distaff winner Ms. Rutledge.

Margaret Pearce (Peggy) Smith, 77, a lifelong Maryland horsewoman, died on February 28. For many years, Mrs. Smith worked side-by-side with her former husband, William McKinley (Linky) Smith.

James P. (Jimmy) Fay, who was employed for many years on the backstretch and as a parking attendant at Maryland tracks, died on February 14.

Maryland's equine census will provide a resource for the industry

Horsemen are urged to respond to equine census forms that will be mailed out in April.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service is conducting the census on behalf of the Maryland Horse Industry Board.

"The first equine census eight years ago gave us an important baseline for measuring the size of our equine industry," said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. "It reinforced that horses of all kinds are remarkably important to Maryland's agricultural sec-

tor, jobs, economy and land base. With the 2010 count, we will learn how the industry has changed, which can in turn help us determine what policy or economic development activities might be needed."

By law, all census information is strictly confidential.

Anyone involved in equine activities who does not receive a questionnaire by May 1 is asked to call (800) 675-0295 (toll free) to request a questionnaire.

For more information visit www.marylandhorseindustry.org/census.shtml.

Recreation report

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

Orioles tickets

The MTHA will conduct a series of drawings for Orioles tickets, with the first drawing scheduled for Saturday, April 3 at noon in the Bowie track kitchen.

Each drawing will offer a set of four Orioles tickets (two tickets to two games) and parking passes for both games.

The first two games in the series are Monday, April 12 vs. the Tampa Bay Rays and Thursday, April 29 vs. the New York Yankees.

Sign up at the track kitchens or call Dan Mangum.

Baysox tickets

Free tickets to Bowie Baysox games will be available in the near future. Look for information in the track kitchens or call Dan Mangum.

Basketball

J.C. Harrington's Terps won the league tournament by defeating William Brooks and Derrick Slouranoy's Laurel Bombers 86 to 77 in the championship game.

MVP Jermaine "Moose" Young led the Terps with 39 points and 14 rebounds. Brian Parker was the leading scorer for the Bombers with 24 points.

Also, William "Fats" Brooks was chosen Coach of the Year for leading his team into the championship.

Softball

Individuals or teams interested in softball are asked to call Dan Mangum as soon as possible.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: J.D. Brown, Gene Gilhooly, Prima Groves, Gail Mangum, Sylvia and Arnold Heft and Carmen Roig,

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.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

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

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Baltimore, Md. 21207;
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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.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Park Now through April 10
Pimlico April 17 through May 22

**JIM MCKAY MARYLAND MILLION DAY
OCT. 2 AT LAUREL PARK**

**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

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

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. Oct. 25-27



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

March 2010

Thoughts and comment

Trainers who are stabled in Maryland are expected to run their horses in Maryland. It's that simple.

Of course there are reasons why horsemen travel out of state every now and then. And that's understood. But when 55 horses are scheduled to ship out of Laurel and Bowie in a three-day period, to race and return from Charles Town and Penn National—as happened on March 19, 20 and 21—we have a serious problem.

Obviously, our overall purses are no longer on par with nearby tracks. But in some instances, Maryland trainers chose to leave even though an identical race, ***with a higher purse***, was carded here at Laurel Park.

The Maryland Jockey Club has

worked with the MTHA to maintain a relatively strong program of overnights, as well as a reasonable number of live race days—including the popular August mini-meet at Laurel, which is expected to return this year.

Horsemen who take advantage of our stabling facilities without supporting the racing program should be aware that they are hurting our already struggling industry.

Loyalty counts. Hopefully, by this time next year, some revenue will be available from slots and purses will begin to increase. Meanwhile, we need horsemen's full cooperation and support.

*/Georganne Hale
Director of Racing,
Maryland Jockey Club*

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