



# RCI BULLETIN

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## **RCI takes steps to stop use of zilpaterol hydrochloride**

**December 6, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times**

The board of directors of Racing Commissioners International approved classifying zilpaterol hydrochloride as a Class 3 drug with “Class A” penalties.

“This has no business being in a racehorse,” RCI President Ed Martin said. “If found, then we’re treating this as a deliberative attempt at cheating.”

Merck & Co. Inc.’s Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health markets zilpaterol hydrochloride as the cattle feed supplement Zilmax, and Martin expects that horsemen are most likely using it as a substitute for steroids.

Regulators in Oklahoma first brought the drug to the RCI’s attention and that security personnel in various jurisdictions also picked up chatter on the drug. RCI member jurisdictions directed their laboratories to begin testing for the drug this year, and Martin said there have been a few positive tests.

Martin said that he hopes the formal classification of the drug will deter horsemen from using it in the future.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/06/rci-takes-steps-to-stop-use-of-zilpaterol-hydrochloride.aspx>

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## **RCI launches Racing Compact website**

**December 6, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times**

The Association of Racing Commissioners International has launched the website [RacingCompact.com](http://RacingCompact.com) as a way to drum up support for an interstate Racing Regulatory Compact to provide a national approach to racing regulation.

“The game has evolved over the years, but regulation has not evolved with the game, so RCI supports a legislative proposal for a national racing compact,” RCI President Ed Martin said.

In September 2009, RCI established a steering committee made up of industry stakeholders from various segments including horsemen, racetrack management, and regulators. RCI hopes the compact regulates racing as the borderless, digital, global industry it has become versus the highly localized sport based entirely on live racing that the current model is based upon.

The legislature and governor of each individual racing state must pass Racing Regulatory Compact legislation to authorize their individual commissions to act collectively with their counterparts in other jurisdictions.

Speaking at the Jockeys' Guild annual assembly at the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program's Symposium on Racing and Gaming, Martin said Monday that one of the benefits of such a compact would be to hasten safety regulations across state lines.

“Whether you're the regulated or the regulators, we all want the same thing: safety of riders,” Martin said. “States acting collectively, uniformly, and consistently mean better rules for all participants.”

The compact will become a recognized regulatory entity once six jurisdictions sign on with a legislative style of governance that relies on committees to first address issues.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/06/rci-launches-racing-compact-website.aspx>

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## **Trainer Badgett suspended 75 days for TC02 violation**

**December 3, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times**

Trainer Billy Badgett has withdrawn an appeal and now is serving a 75-day suspension for his second violation in two years for an excessive total carbon dioxide level.

The New York State Racing and Wagering Board also fined Badgett \$2,500 for the violation found in Stargleam, who had a pre-race TC02 level of 37 millimoles per liter of plasma prior to a fifth-place in the Excelsior Stakes (G3) on April 3, which was prior to the New York Racing Association's elimination of pre-race detention barns.

Stargleam was not administered furosemide, and the state's limit is 36 millimoles per liter for a horse who has not been treated with the drug.

Badgett's suspension runs from December 1 through February 13.

Badgett served a 60-day suspension last year when Wild Conga also registered a pre-race TC02 level of 37 millimoles per liter before a race at Aqueduct.

In 2010, Badgett has 16 wins from 159 starters and \$741,303 in stable earnings.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/03/trainer-badgett-suspended-75-days-for-tc02-violation.aspx>

## **Trial date set for ousted Louisiana horsemen's official**

**December 2, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form**

Mona Romero, the former executive director of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association who was named in a 29-count indictment that alleges mail fraud among other charges, pled not guilty during her Thursday afternoon arraignment in a federal court in New Orleans. Her trial is set for Jan. 31.

Sean Alfortish, the former chairman of the Louisiana horsemen's association who was also named in the indictment, was to be arraigned on Friday. His court date was pushed back a day after having originally been set for Thursday.

A federal grand jury returned the indictment against Romero, 52, and Alfortish, 43, on Nov. 18. It alleges that the pair conspired to "rig the outcome," of a 2008 Louisiana horsemen's election. To be valid, ballots had to bear both a U.S. Postal Service postmark and the Social Security number of an eligible member of the horsemen's group. Alfortish and Romero were charged with using the Social Security numbers of some members without their "knowledge or consent," according to a release issued by U.S. Attorney Jim Letten. The indictment alleges that Romero and others flew to various cities to mail the falsified ballots.

Alfortish and Romero were also charged with health care fraud concerning payments made from the Louisiana Horsemen's Medical Benefit trust account. A shortage of funds has allegedly caused payments of some claims to be delayed and led to some coverage being reduced. The indictment also alleges a wire fraud scheme tied to distribution of relief funds after Hurricane Katrina.

If convicted of the 29 counts, Alfortish and Romero face maximum penalties of 280 years in prison and \$7.25 million in fines.

Last week, the board of the Louisiana horsemen's association relieved Romero of her duties, according to one of the organization's representatives. Alfortish, meanwhile, was replaced as chairman, with trainer Larry Robideaux Jr. installed to that position by the horsemen's board. Robideaux had been the vice-chariman to Alfortish.

Alfortish was elected to the board in 2005, and Romero was named executive director the same year. A new election is set to be held by the Louisiana horsemen's group in March.

<http://www.drf.com/news/trial-date-set-ousted-louisiana-horsemens-official>

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## **Kentucky 2011 Ag Forecast: Horses May Drop to No. 3**

**December 4, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

Kentucky agriculture overcame drought and a rocky economy to produce higher cash receipts this year, and those cash yields could grow to \$5 billion in 2011 for the first time, economists said Dec. 2.

Led by robust exports and strong grain prices, farming appears on pace to reap \$4.4 billion to \$4.7 billion in cash receipts this year, up from \$4.3 billion in 2009, said University of Kentucky ag economist Craig Infanger.

In one trend, corn production may be poised to overtake the world-renowned equine sector next year as the state's second-leading cash producer, behind poultry farming, which solidified its perch as the top source of ag receipts. "If we come out with extra acres and some good season-average prices, then yes, I think corn could move up," Infanger said.

Equine receipts showed only slight improvement from 2009, while higher corn prices helped offset disappointing yields caused by a prolonged drought that kept grain receipts from being significantly higher, the economists said. Higher farm income will contribute to economic recovery in rural Kentucky, uplifting not only farm families but merchants selling tractors, pickup trucks, grain seed, fertilizer and other goods, Infanger said. Kentucky has about 85,000 farms.

"We've come out of this recession with a lot of financial stress," he said. "This is going to help farmers pay down debt and strengthen their balance sheet."

Net farm income - the amount left after expenses - is projected to reach \$1.3 billion this year, excluding government payments, just below the state's 10-year average, he said. Last year's net farm number slightly exceeded \$1 billion.

Looking ahead, Infanger forecast 2011 cash receipts in the range of \$4.8 billion to \$5.2 billion, which would be a record high for gross farm income based partly on continued surging exports and a bullish grain sector. "I don't think the \$5 billion is a once-in-a-lifetime number," Infanger told reporters. "It's a reasonable estimate of what cash receipts might be, and we should be able to build on that."

The upbeat projection hinges on favorable weather and trade conditions, he cautioned. And despite higher receipts, Kentucky agriculture trailed growth trends in the overall U.S. farm sector, due largely to the drought and lack of stronger growth in the horse industry, he said.

A team of UK ag economists assessed the breadth of Kentucky agriculture during a presentation coinciding with the annual Kentucky Farm Bureau convention. They predicted the state's livestock receipts will likely increase by \$100 million to \$200 million in 2011.

It's not entirely rosy for Kentucky farming.

Demand continues to wane for burley tobacco, once the king of Kentucky agriculture, due to lower U.S. cigarette sales, higher prices, the sluggish economy and smoking restrictions, said UK ag economist Will Snell. He estimated that the volume of burley pounds grown under contract to tobacco companies shrank by 20% to 30% this year.

Tobacco companies are likely to take a conservative approach to offering grower contracts next year given the industry's uncertainties, he said, including global efforts to crack down on cigarettes laced with flavorings. American burley is laced with flavors to smooth its harsh taste. Kentucky is the nation's top producer of burley, a product in many cigarettes.

The stack of challenges facing tobacco spurred Snell to wonder aloud: "Have we seen the last \$300 million tobacco crop here in Kentucky, given all the factors that are affecting this industry?"

The farm sector's ability to absorb the decline of tobacco shows its resiliency, Infanger said. "It says that Kentucky agriculture is dynamic, it can change, it can adapt," he said. Exports remain a key factor in the agricultural sector's health. Of every \$5 in net farm income, \$2 to \$3 is linked to international markets, Infanger said.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60185/ky-2011-ag-forecast-horses-may-drop-to-no-3>

## **Online Gambling Bill Approved by New Jersey Senate**

**November 22, 2010 – Casino Gambling Web**

Today is a day that millions of online gamblers across the US have been waiting for. The New Jersey Senate approved a bill that will allow online gambling by New Jersey residents and foreigners. Although that gives no relief to gamblers in other states, it is the start of a process.

"In order to gain full freedom of Internet gambling in the US, it had to start with one state," said Gaming Analyst Steve Schwartz. "Once the first state regulates online gambling, others will follow, and soon, all online gamblers in the US will finally receive the freedoms they are supposed to be afforded in the Constitution."

The online gambling discussion has taken place in New Jersey for several months, but only today did a bill go before the full Senate. The bill is interesting in the fact of how advanced the technology has become for Internet gambling. The technology that will be used in New Jersey will allow only residents of the state and gamblers in countries outside the US to gamble at the online sites.

Other pieces of legislation were also passed on Monday, one of which would bring sports betting to the countries second largest gaming market. The sports betting legislation is not as much of a slam dunk as the online gambling bill, because federal laws still prohibit New Jersey from offering sports betting.

Senator Ray Lesniak has sued to gain New Jersey the right to offer sports betting. Lesniak, in the lawsuit, maintains that it is unconstitutional to allow some states to offer sports betting while others are prohibited from doing so. Lesniak is pushing for a referendum on the November ballot for voters to approve the sports wagering despite the federal ban.

The gambling bills that were passed on Monday are largely the product of bi-partisan support. One bill that would allow casinos to open with only 200 hotel rooms passed unanimously, without one Republican voting against the measure despite the fact it was proposed by a Democratic lawmaker. Currently, a casino has to offer at least 500 rooms to operate their casino.

[http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/gambling-law/online\\_gambling\\_bill\\_approved\\_by\\_new\\_jersey\\_senate\\_56061.html](http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/gambling-law/online_gambling_bill_approved_by_new_jersey_senate_56061.html)

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## **Leparoux, Desormeaux Suspended Three Days**

**November 30, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

Jockeys Julien Leparoux and Kent Desormeaux have each been suspended by stewards for three days for their actions during the \$500,000 Clark Handicap (gr. I) Nov. 26 at Churchill Downs.

Leparoux finished first aboard Successful Dan but the winner was dropped to third after officials ruled Successful Dan interfered with Redding Colliery at the top of the stretch. Giant Oak was awarded the victory.

Desormeaux finished fourth aboard Demarcation but was dropped to last for running into Dubious Miss with less than a quarter mile to go in the race.

The suspensions will run from Dec. 2-4 if they choose not to appeal.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60099/leparoux-desormeaux-suspended-three-days>

# **Illinois Senate approves expanded gaming bill**

**December 4, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times**

The Illinois Senate on December 1 approved a massive gambling expansion bill that would permit slot machines at the state's five racetracks but the legislation is in limbo because the House of Representatives has recessed until January.

In order for the legislation to go to Gov. Pat Quinn, it would have to be approved by the House during the few days remaining in the veto session prior to the swearing in of the new General Assembly. The Senate bill passed by a vote of 31 to 20 with two voting "present."

It calls for a land-based casino in Chicago, four new riverboat casinos in Rockford, Danville, Park City, and a south suburb yet to be named. The nine existing riverboat casinos would be allowed to add 400 wagering positions each for a total of 1,600 per casino and another 400 in 2013. This provision also would extend to the tenth casino scheduled to open in the Chicago northwest suburb of Des Plaines in 2012.

The state's four tracks in the Chicago metropolitan area—Arlington Park, Hawthorne Race Course, Maywood Park and Balmoral Park—each would get 1,200 slot machines. The downstate track—Fairmount Park in Collinsville across the Mississippi River from St. Louis—and Quad City Downs, a harness track that has been serving as an inter-track betting location after being shut down by parent Arlington Park several years ago, would get 900 machines each.

Tax gaming revenue for purses would range from 12.75% to 26.5%, with the sliding scale based upon receipts. Money also would be earmarked for stable area improvements and care for injured and unwanted horses.

After a 20-year onslaught of riverboat casino opposition, Illinois racing was described by the bill as being "on the verge of extinction" because of competition with tracks in other states that have slot machines. The bill also said that "racing and breeding programs" would be revitalized by the infusion of the slot machine revenue.

Despite the provision in the omnibus bill calling for 800 new positions by 2013, the existing casinos are in opposition along with anti-gambling elements and the state's largest newspaper, the *Chicago Tribune*.

Quinn has said he is leery of a massive expansion of gambling in the state.

The Senate bill's sponsor, Senator Terry Link (D-Waukegan), however, believes it would generate \$1-billion annually in new tax revenue and is the best solution to the budget crisis in a state that has a deficit of about \$15-billion.

"Is it a huge expansion? Yes, I'm not going to deny it," Link said. "But we've got a huge deficit in Illinois. You look at big things to fix it."

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/03/illinois-senate-approves-expanded-gaming-bill.aspx>

# **Jockeys' Guild pushes for better emergency response at tracks**

**December 6, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times**

In updating progress made treating spinal cord injuries, three leading doctors and researchers on the subject implored the industry to take necessary steps at racetracks to improve the care jockeys receive from the moment an injury occurs.

The topics took place Monday during the Jockeys' Guild's annual assembly, which coincides with the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program's Symposium on Racing and Gaming. The doctors' statements were music to Jockeys' Guild members' ears, as the organization has tried to encourage racetracks to employ paramedics during races and develop better emergency protocol when injuries take place.

"The more experienced the person the better," said Oswald Steward, Ph.D., director of the Reeve-Irvine Research Center at the University of California-Irvine. "Every second counts, and it's an important situation to manage properly. A paramedic can initiate protocol."

Guild National Manager Terry Meyocks acknowledged that a paramedic costs more, but said that the investment is worth it and one that more tracks should feel obligated to make.

Mike Ziegler, executive director of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association Safety and Integrity Alliance, said that the alliance recommends one paramedic on duty during training hours and two during live racing.

Another issue the alliance and panelists addressed is the transport of both jockey and his medical information to area hospitals. Steward emphasized that the closest hospital is not always the best hospital for the type of injuries jockeys suffer. Dalton Dietrich, Ph.D., and Edward Hall, Ph.D., both said that a combination of paramedics traveling with a jockey to the best hospital is far better than an Emergency Medical Technician traveling with a jockey to a closer but inferior hospital.

Guild Chairman John Velazquez said that jockeys who race at Aqueduct are often transported to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center even though better options exist within minutes.

"Know your area hospitals, not all hospitals are equal," Steward said. "With a spinal cord injury, it is better to pass by the nearest hospital to get to the best hospital. Look for centers with established programs in spinal cord injury management and ideally ongoing research programs."

Meyocks was pleased that many industry participants in Tucson for the Symposium attended the Rider Safety Summit, including Association of Racing Commissioners International President Ed Martin, who sat on the panel. RCI is hoping state governments pass a national Racing Regulatory Compact, and Martin said that such a pursuit would benefit jockey safety.

"Whether you're the regulated or the regulators, we all want the same thing: safety of riders," Martin said. "States acting collectively, uniformly, and consistently mean better rules for all participants."

Hall, the director of Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center at the University of Kentucky, noted that spinal cord injuries resulting in paralysis can cost \$500,000 within the first year of needing treatment, a figure that helped renew the Guild's call for increased on-track catastrophic injury coverage. Many tracks offer coverage that maxes out at \$500,000, though some do offer \$1-million.

The Guild assembly continues through Tuesday, including an afternoon riders' safety workshop. The Symposium continues through Thursday.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/06/guild-pushes-for-better-emergency-response-at-tracks.aspx>

## **With lower takeout, Tioga, Vernon handle up**

**November 29, 2010 – HarnessRacing.com**

Tioga Downs and the Southern Tier Harness Horsemen's Association (STHHA) opted to try a lower takeout rate initiative for the 2010 race season, where all takeout rates were lowered to New York state minimums. The results of the takeout initiative were promising compared to industry standards where most other handles are dropping, the Tioga Downs handle showed an increase of 7.8 percent over 2009.

Vernon Downs' takeout rates stayed the same as in 2009, and the 2010 handle showed a 5.6 percent decrease in total handle. The live on track handle for the Vernon Downs season was only down just under 1 percent, but the export number plummeted at Vernon Downs in 2010 with a 9.5 percent decrease in export compared to 2009.

The end result of the takeout rate reduction at Tioga showed an actual revenue loss in 2010 compared to 2009, but management feels that as part of repairing our broken business model in harness racing a takeout reduction is worth exploring.

"The horseplayers have spoken and they want more value on the product they are betting on. It's past time to look at our business model and make adjustments, and we have to begin with the most important piece of the puzzle, the bettors," said Jason M. Settlemoir, VP of Racing and Simulcast. "With the high amount of product available for bettors to wager on they are going to go where they are getting the best value and we believe that we are providing that for them at Tioga.

"Hopefully, we will someday also provide our customer with a better product by keeping our stars racing as we recently saw by the dramatic increase in news coverage and TV ratings when Zenyatta raced in the Breeders' Cup."

<http://www.harnessracing.com/news/withlowertakeouttiogavernonhandleup.html>

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## **Tampa Bay Downs reduces takeout on exotics**

**December 6, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times**

When Tampa Bay Downs opens its 2010-'11 season on December 10, the track will offer lower takeouts for several popular exotic wagers.

The Oldsmar, Florida track will lower the takeout from 19% to 18% on its pick three, pick four, super hi-five, and pick six wagers. Takeout is the amount of money retained from the pari-mutuel pools to pay the track, horsemen (purses), and taxes while the remaining money is paid to winning players.

Also this year, the track will offer a 50-cent minimum on pick three wagers. It already offers a 50-cent minimum on pick fours and trifectas.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/06/tampa-bay-downs-reduces-takeout-on-exotics.aspx>

# **Kentucky Out-of-Competition Regulation to be Permanent**

## **December 1, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

An out-of-competition testing regulation that was put into effect in Kentucky prior to the Breeders' Cup World Championships will soon become permanent.

During a meeting Nov. 30, the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission's rules committee made a few modifications before sending the regulation on to the full commission for consideration.

The regulation was implemented on an emergency basis so some testing could take place prior to the Nov. 5-6 World Championships at Churchill Downs. The rules committee's action is the final step before the commission votes on making the regulations permanent.

Despite concerns raised by representatives of horsemen's groups at previous meetings, the out-of-competition testing went smoothly during the Breeders' Cup and the Grand Circuit Standardbred meet at Lexington's Red Mile racetrack, according to Dr. Mary Scollay, the KHRC's equine medical director.

Scollay said 55 Breeders' Cup participants were tested under the out-of-competition testing format and that all tested negative for any of the prohibited substances identified in the regulation. Scollay said there were no problems with KHRC staff or their designated representatives in other states having access to the horses to be tested or the tests themselves.

The regulation allows the KHRC to conduct tests on horses regardless of location if there is a likelihood the horse ordered for testing will race in Kentucky. The tests are aimed at detecting prohibited substances, mainly blood-doping agents, that cannot be detected in post-race tests and which are specifically identified in the regulation. KHRC veterinary staff members have said the substances targeted by the regulation can be detected for only a short period after being administered--meaning they would not show up in regular post-race tests—but can have a lengthy positive effect upon a horse's performance.

First-time offenders under the regulation face license revocation of between five to 10 years and up to a \$50,000 fine. Also, those same penalties would apply to an owner, trainer, or anyone entrusted with a horse's care refusing to permit a horse to be tested. Horses that test positive under the regulation would be barred from racing in the state for 180 days.

Under the protocol established under the regulation, a licensee would be required to apply to the commission's license review committee upon completion of the revocation period in order to be re-licensed. Also, a horse that tests positive under the regulation would be required to have a negative test before it could resume racing following the 180-day ban from competition.

Any horse that tested positive in a post-race test for the substances for which the out-of-competition regulation is aimed would face the stiffer penalties imposed under out-of-competition regulations.

Marty Maline, executive director of the Kentucky Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, said Nov. 30 that some horsemen had concerns about the testing procedures for a horse located on premises where neither the owner or trainer are present and the property owner/manager refuses to permit a horse to be tested.

Tim West, deputy general counsel for the KHRC, said the regulations provide the horse can be relocated to a location mutually agreed upon by the KHRC staff or representative and the horse's designated representative.

Prior to approval, the rules committee deleted one section of the regulation pertaining to which horses can be designated for testing.

Based on a review of the regulations by the state's Legislative Research Commission staff and feedback from attorney Doug McSwain, the rules committee agreed the provision could be interpreted as being overly broad. Also, West said, other parts of the regulation specifying horses to be targeted for testing make the provision unnecessary.

West noted that no one attended a public hearing held to receive comments on the regulation and that a letter from McSwain, who has represented the Kentucky and National HBPA in the past but was acting on his own behalf in this case, was the only feedback received by the commission.

"I would like for us to have a regulation that withstands legal challenges and I believe this does that," said rules committee member Ned Bonnie.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60140/ky-out-of-competition-reg-to-be-permanent>

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## **FEI Prohibited Substance App Now Available for Android Phones**

**November 29, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

Three weeks after launching its iPhone application for the Equine Prohibited Substances list, the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) has announced that the app is now available on Android smartphones.

The mobile application gives those involved in horse sport fast and easy access to crucial information on prohibited substances. When it was launched at the start of November for iPhone users, it was greeted with great enthusiasm by the equestrian community. Already, more than 2,000 people worldwide have downloaded the app, and it was featured third on the iTunes Store "New and Noteworthy" section.

The official FEI Android version is now available on Android phones with the version 2.2 (or later) operating system and can be downloaded from the Google Android Market using your Android smartphone. The official FEI iPhone app is available for download from the iTunes Store.

The Android and iPhone apps enable users to navigate the prohibited substances database that has been featured on the FEI website since April 2010. When a searchable term is entered, a short definition of the substance appears, accompanied by its FEI classification and common trade names.

Users only need to download the app once, and the online database will be automatically updated to incorporate new substances after annual reviews of the list take place.

The prohibited substances list app is the FEI's most recent mobile phone application for the equestrian community. An app was developed earlier this year for FEI Dressage Tests for Eventing, Dressage, and Para-Dressage.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60114/fei-prohibited-substance-app-now-available-for-android-phones>

## **Different New York City OTB bill introduced in Senate**

**December 6, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form**

As the self-imposed deadline for the New York City Off-Track Betting Corp. to close quickly approaches, a bill has been introduced in the state Senate that differs from the one passed in the Assembly last week in that it extends all provisions given to bankrupt NYCOTB to the state's other regional OTB networks, which could cost the racing industry millions of dollars in revenue.

Should the Senate pass that bill Tuesday, it would require the Assembly to return to Albany and vote on it, something that is not expected to happen. In essence, if the Senate does not vote on the same bill the Assembly passed last week - one that has the support of Gov. David Paterson - it is likely that NYCOTB will shut down at the close of business Tuesday.

NYCOTB had threatened to close last Friday, but its board of directors voted to remain open until Tuesday upon learning that the Senate would come back to vote on a bill, something it had failed to do last week.

The Senate bill, sponsored by Sen. Andrew Lanza, a Republican from Staten Island, includes all the provisions passed by the Assembly but broadens them by bringing parity with regional OTBs outside of New York City.

"This is a unique opportunity to get a positive result for OTB, the racing industry, and for taxpayers," Senate Republican Leader Dean Skelos said in a press release. "Rather than focus on a narrow solution that applies only to New York City, we should pass our comprehensive bill that saves jobs and generates more revenue to benefit local taxpayers in the suburbs and upstate."

The Senate bill has been criticized by the racing industry because it further reduces payments it would receive from the state's OTB corporations by an additional \$12 million annually. The bill passed in the Assembly already reduces the amount of money NYCOTB pays the industry by as much as \$30 million over the first two years of its reorganization plan to come out of bankruptcy.

Rick Violette, president of the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and a member of the board of directors of the New York Racing Association, said "submitting a bill that is different than what has already been passed by the Assembly effectively will shut down OTB. It is not expected that the Assembly would come back to address a different bill and certainly wouldn't pass the additions made by the Senate."

One point that would cost the NYRA significant revenue is a stipulation that requires NYRA to provide its simulcast signal of all races run at its tracks to NYCOTB at no cost and to all other OTBs at the statutory rate with no additional contractual fees.

<http://www.drf.com/news/different-new-york-city-otb-bill-introduced-senate>

# **Pinnacle Gaming Possibly Eyeing Ohio Gambling Expansion With Track Buy**

**December 4, 2010 – Casino Gambling Web**

Pinnacle Entertainment is one of the most well-known names in the gaming industry, and this past week they have made a move that could signal some upcoming changes in Ohio. Pinnacle has agreed to buy River Downs Racetrack in Cincinnati for \$45 million.

Pinnacle is hoping that in the near future, video lottery terminals will be permitted at the tracks in Ohio. If that occurs, the \$45 million price tag will seem like a bargain for the gaming giant. Whether that expansion occurs depends largely on incoming Governor-elect John Kasich.

Had Ted Strickland remained the governor, the chances would have been much greater of slots being legalized at Ohio tracks. Kasich, a Republican, may not move as quickly on the issue and it could take some time for lawmakers to convince Kasich that the slots would be beneficial.

Ohio tracks have experienced the same problems that other tracks around the country have had over the past couple of years. The economic recession has hurt the racing industry, leaving many tracks financially strapped. Ohio tracks have been pushing lawmakers for the legalization of the video lottery terminals at their facilities.

Ohio residents have become more relaxed on their gambling stance in recent years. Voters approved casinos for the first time in the last election, voting in favor of a plan that authorized four casinos in the state. Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Toledo will all have operational casinos in the next couple of years.

Before the video lottery terminal issue can be dealt with, Kasich must decide whether to approve the appointees that Governor Strickland has suggested for an Ohio Gaming Commission. Kasich has said already that he needs to take some time to familiarize himself with not only the candidates, but also the gaming industry as a whole.

[http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/casino-gambling/pinnacle\\_possibly\\_eyeing\\_ohio\\_gambling\\_expansion\\_with\\_track\\_buy\\_56096.html](http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/casino-gambling/pinnacle_possibly_eyeing_ohio_gambling_expansion_with_track_buy_56096.html)

## **NSAIDs Help Pain But Not Bone Healing**

**December 2, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

Imagine sustaining a fracture or undergoing orthopedic surgery and being prescribed a drug that helps control pain and inflammation. This medication is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). But there is a catch: the drug that helps control your pain inhibits bone healing.

Unfortunately, this is not a hypothetical situation. According to Sabrina Barry, DVM, a surgical resident at Washington State University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital, whose literature review on the subject is set to publish in January:

- All NSAIDs studied to date have the potential to inhibit bone formation, mostly during the early stages of bone healing;
- NSAIDs appear to have a dose-dependent effect, meaning that the higher the dose, the more it will inhibit bone formation; and
- NSAIDs are also thought to have a duration-dependent effect: the longer the drug is used, the more it will hinder bone healing.

The administration of NSAIDs prior to trauma and bone injury, however, does not appear to impact bone healing, she notes.

"Data on bone healing and NSAID administration has primarily been generated from rodents and rabbits," explains Barry. "Nonetheless, this point seems clear: NSAIDs, when given at high doses and for long durations, negatively impact bone healing. ... Only one study has been published on bone remodeling in horses."

In that study, bone biopsies were taken from the tibias of horses receiving doses of the NSAID phenylbutazone (Bute), and those not receiving the medication. There was less mineralized tissue in the bone biopsy sites at 16 and 30 days in the phenylbutazone-treated horses as compared to the control group; the difference was minor, but still present.

"Whether the effect of NSAIDs on bone healing in horses is clinically important or not remains controversial," concluded Barry. "Prospective trials in horses are needed to guide veterinarians in determining which NSAID to use in horses after bone injury, at what dose, and for how long."

The article, "Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs inhibit bone healing: a review" is scheduled to be published in the January 2011 edition of *Veterinary and Comparative Orthopaedics and Traumatology*. The abstract is available on PubMed.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60051/researcher-nsaids-help-pain-but-not-bone-healing>

## **Aaron Vercruysse Added as TOC Consultant**

**December 1, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

Aaron Vercruysse has been retained by the Thoroughbred Owners of California to assist in the development and execution of initiatives dealing with wagering and purse improvements, the organization announced Nov. 30.

Vercruysse, who recently resigned as vice president of racing and wagering at Santa Anita Park, where he spent the last nine years, will be consulting in matters such as advance deposit wagering, domestic and international simulcasting, and player wagering programs, according to a statement from the TOC.

“We’re very excited about bringing Aaron aboard, and his addition couldn’t be coming at a better time,” said Brian Boudreau, TOC vice chairman and also chairman of the owner group's ADW and simulcasting committee. “With so many racing and gaming issues coming up, including recent legislation to increase purses, his understanding of the economics in racing will be vital to maximize returns for owners, trainers, and jockeys.”

Vercruysse began his assignment with TOC Dec. 1. He will work directly with Guy Lamothe, executive vice president, as well as committees to the TOC board.

“Under this board’s leadership, TOC has a renewed focus on strategic issues that deliver meaningful results for Thoroughbred owners and the California horseracing industry,” Lamothe said. “We’re thrilled to be working with Aaron, who brings an excellent skill set, broad industry knowledge, and an accomplished track record to help us achieve our goals.”

Vercruysse also served on the board of directors of Tracknet Media Group from 2008 to 2010. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program.

“TOC is committed to developing opportunities and solutions for the best possible racing,” commented Vercruysse. “And I am excited to contribute to that endeavor.”

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60154/aaron-vercruysse-added-as-toc-consultant>

## **NJ harness officials trying save Meadowlands**

**December 3, 2010 – Bloomberg Business Week**

The head of New Jersey's harness racing industry is optimistic that the 2011 racing season at the Meadowlands will take place.

Tom Luchento, president of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey, voiced his opinion after a two-hour meeting Thursday with Jeff Chiesa, Gov. Chris Christie's chief counsel.

Luchento would not disclose details, but he did say the two sides discussed several ways to keep one of the nation's premier harness tracks open, including a possible deal where the harness association and partners would lease the track from the state for live racing starting next month.

"Hopefully, we'll be racing Jan. 1," Luchento said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Christie spokesman Michael Drewniak confirmed Thursday that there are ongoing talks between the governor's office and the horsemen. He would not provide any details.

The talks came less than a month after a task force assembled by Christie on the future of casinos and racetracks recommended that live racing at the Meadowlands end after this year.

Luchento said the governor's office has bent over backward to work out a deal.

The Hanson Commission released a supplemental report on Nov. 15 saying there is no way New Jersey can support two state-run tracks. It proposed ending live racing at the Meadowlands and consolidating it at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, more than an hour's drive south, starting in 2011.

The plan also calls for the two tracks to be sold to a private owner.

The Meadowlands Racetrack, part of the Meadowlands Sports Complex, would be used as an off-track betting facility under the plan.

The task force said Monmouth Park is set to lose \$6.6 million this year, and the Meadowlands an additional \$11 million.

The Hanson proposal would allow a six-day standardbred meet to be held at the Meadowlands next August. Standardbreds would race 30 days at Monmouth in the fall of 2011 and have a 70-day meet in subsequent years. Thoroughbreds would race 59 days a year at Monmouth from May to September.

After the report was released, Luchento said it would be a death sentence to harness racing in New Jersey.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9JSII201.htm>

# **KY Panel Continues to Look at Breeders' Fund**

**November 23, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

A panel of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission looking into possible changes in the state's breeders' incentive fund met again Nov. 22 and discussed various options but came to no solid conclusions.

The Kentucky Thoroughbred Breeders' Incentive Fund Advisory Committee is considering all aspects of the program—from the registration process and fees to who is eligible to receive the incentives—for possible changes with a goal of increasing participation among breeders.

Under legislation passed about five years ago, the breeders' program is funded through the 6% sales tax on stud fees for Kentucky stallions. The money is divided by breed, with 80% to Thoroughbreds, 13% to Standardbreds, and 7% to other breeds.

According to Jamie Eads, KHRC incentives and development director, of the 17,303 Thoroughbred mares bred in Kentucky in 2010, 8,868 have been registered for the KTBIF. There is a \$60 fee due if a mare is registered prior to Aug. 1 of the year bred, and it increases to \$750 from Aug. 2 of year bred to Dec. 31 of the following year.

During the meeting, advisory committee members went through a litany of possible reasons why there is not a greater number of Kentucky mares (and their subsequent offspring) registered for the program. Among the most oft-cited reasons for lack of participation are the amounts and deadlines for fee payments, and the requirement that the mare must be kept in the state for the entire gestation period to be eligible for the incentives.

Most of the committee members own horse farms or are involved in farm management and have direct dealings with many of the breeders who own mares bred in Kentucky and other states.

David Hager, who owns Idle Hour Farm near Paris, Ky., said he understands the requirement that mares must remain in the state from time they are bred until the foal is born is designed to help the state's horse farms. In practice, however, it is having the opposite effect, Hager said.

Hager cited some clients who own farms in other states and send their mares to Kentucky to be bred. Rather than leave the mare at a Kentucky farm and incur unnecessary board costs of the entire gestation period, they either opt not to register for the Kentucky breed incentive program or they breed the mare to a stallion in a state with less-restrictive requirements. Either way, it is inconsistent with the legislature's intention when it passed the bill, Hager said. "It has made it so restrictive that it has had the opposite effect," Hager said.

In discussing possible alternatives to the mare residency requirement, the committee requested Eads and the incentive program staff review the breeding programs in other states and Ontario, Canada, as a way to come up with a viable alternative. Most of the committee members said they favor extending the \$60 fee, or a graduated amount that is higher than \$60 but lower than \$750, until Dec. 1 of the year in which the mare was bred as a means of getting more buyers of mares at November sales to register their new purchases to the program.

Along with changes in registration deadlines and fees, the committee reached a general consensus on changes in the awards themselves in response to a dwindling amount available to be paid out each year. The incentive funds have declined due to declines in stud fees and the subsequent decrease in taxes that are collected as well as a decline in mares

being bred in Kentucky. Eads said the amount for incentives this year will be about \$13 million, down from \$15 million in 2007 and 2008. She is also projecting additional decreases in coming years due to industry contraction.

Chief among the changes is lowering the amount paid to the breeders of the Kentucky Derby (gr. I) and Kentucky Oaks (gr. I) winners. Currently, if a KTBIF-registered horse wins either of those races, the breeder is awarded \$100,000. While some committee members discussed lowering that award to the \$25,000 given to breeders of registered horses that win other grade I races, they seemed to prefer a \$50,000 award.

Committee member Headley Bell of Mill Ridge Farm and Nicoma Bloodstock said the Derby and Oaks breeders should receive more than a breeder of any other grade I race "because it is such a special thing."

Also discussed were major changes in the way the fund rewards breeders of claiming races. Currently, the breeder of the top-earning claiming horse at each Thoroughbred race meet receives an incentive award of \$25,000. However, rather than have only four to six breeders benefit under that format, the committee is exploring how to change the award to have more breeders share in the awards.

Republican Kentucky Sen. Damon Thayer, who at the October advisory committee meeting said he favored doing away with claiming awards, did not attend the Nov. 22 meeting. Thayer introduced the incentive fund legislation.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60023/ky-panel-continues-to-look-at-breeders-fund>

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## **Declines in U.S. Wagering, Purses Continue**

### **December 5, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

Wagering, purses, and race days in United States Thoroughbred racing continued a downward spiral in November compared to one year ago, according to the latest available data. The "Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators" report released Dec. 4 by Equibase said wagering on United States races in November 2010 totaled \$906,259,429, off 7.78% from \$982,739,386 for November 2009. Purses for the same period totaled \$95,520,748, down 8.45% from \$104,342,180 last year.

There were 375 race days (individual racing programs at each track) versus 411 in November 2009, a decline of 8.76%.

The November numbers exceeded the reported declines for handle, purses, and race days for the year to date. For the first 11 months of 2010, total pari-mutuel handle on U.S. racing was off 7.20%, from \$11,571,305,558 in 2009 to \$10,737,672,191.

Purses for the first 11 months of 2010 totaled \$971,189,950, a drop of 6.20% from \$1,035,358,895 last year. Race days declined by 442 days or 7.89%, from 5,601 last year to 5,159 in 2010.

A glimmer of good news is that it appears the handle decline is slowing this year; wagering fell 9.9% to \$12.3 billion from 2008 to 2009. Purses were off about \$100 million last year, while the number of race days dropped only 2.3% from 2008 to 2009.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60199/decline-in-us-wagering-purses-continue>

## **Jersey Handle Up \$123M With 50% Fewer Dates**

**November 23, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

The consolidation of Thoroughbred racing at Monmouth Park this year led to a \$123 million increase in total pari-mutuel handle despite 50% fewer racing dates, New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority officials said Nov. 21.

Monmouth completed its 22-day late summer/early fall meet Nov. 21 with average daily handle of \$3,841,848. The comparable 47-day meet at Meadowlands in 2009 produced average daily handle of \$1,342,884, the NJSEA said.

All Thoroughbred racing was held at Monmouth in 2010 as part of an experiment in which horsemen agreed to race 71 days instead of 141 under legislation passed for 2010 only. Monmouth's 50-day "Elite Summer Meet" presented by IZOD offered average daily purses of almost \$800,000 and generated a 213% increase in total average daily handle, a 79% increase in ontrack handle, a 47% increase in attendance, and a 25% hike in field size, officials said.

A commission under Republican Gov. Chris Christie said this year's Monmouth meet will lose about \$6 million, though it offered no specifics on how the figure was derived. The commission has recommended the sale of Monmouth by the state and closure of Meadowlands.

In a statement, NJSEA chief executive officer Dennis Robinson offered a different view.

"It's clear that concentrating Thoroughbred racing at Monmouth Park proved a very wise investment," Robinson said. "Not only did we realize dramatic gains in all categories, we substantially reduced our operating costs by shifting all Thoroughbred racing to Monmouth."

According to NJSEA figures, total Thoroughbred handle on Monmouth races was \$477,375,167 this year for 71 days versus \$354,867,156 for 141 days at Monmouth and Meadowlands in 2009. Ontrack handle was down, from \$44,153,896 this year versus \$44,623,515 last year.

The Monmouth signal clearly made an impact in the simulcast market, according to the figures.

"While in some instances it's difficult to compare the results of 2009 to 2010, one thing is certain—less proved to be more," Robinson said. "Our racing schedule, along with the quality of our product, resonated with racing fans from coast to coast. I hope it proves to be the cornerstone of a new racing model."

The Christie commission has recommended only 59 Thoroughbred dates at Monmouth for 2011, as well as consolidation of Thoroughbred and harness racing at Monmouth upon closure of Meadowlands. Horsemen's groups representing both breeds have said the plan is a non-starter, and they have threatened litigation.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60015/jersey-handle-up-123m-with-50-fewer-dates>

## **Charles Town Approved for 235 Dates in 2011**

### **November 24, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races was approved for 235 racing dates in 2011 with racing year-round. The West Virginia track will race from Jan. 4-Dec. 30. Live racing will be held five days a week with the exception of June 8-Sept. 6, when racing will be held four days a week.

The West Virginia Racing Commission approved the dates Nov. 15.

From January-April, racing will be offered on a Tuesday-through-Saturday schedule with first post time of 7:15 p.m. Eastern time. Thereafter, racing will take place Wednesdays through Sundays, with first post of 7:15 Wednesdays through Saturdays and 1 p.m. Sundays.

The track's big-event programs are tentatively scheduled for April 16 (Charles Town Classic), June 18 (Sprint Festival), and Sept. 17 (Race for the Ribbon). First post for those Saturday programs would be 6 p.m.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60035/charles-town-approved-for-235-dates-in-2011>

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## **Legislation would allow tracks to get jump on Internet poker**

### **December 6, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times**

Under a bill Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is proposing, racetracks, existing casinos, and slot-machine makers would be given a head start in offering online poker.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Reid's staffers are circulating a bill that would allow Internet gambling on poker. According to the draft, racetracks, existing casinos, and slot-machine manufacturers would be the only companies allowed to offer the Internet gambling for a period of two years after any legislation is passed.

The legislation would overturn portions of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, which prohibits banks and financial institutions from conducting transactions with Internet gambling sites. It would outsource regulation of the sites to state regulators.

The Wall Street Journal reports that Reid previously has opposed Internet gambling but casino companies in his home state of Nevada have pushed for the measure. Those companies were reported to be big donors for the Democrat in his close re-election.

Churchill Downs Inc., which operates the pari-mutuel account-wagering website TwinSpires.com and holds domain rights to former ADW site Youbet.com, has expressed interest in launching an Internet poker site. Betfair, owner of the account-wagering website Television Games Network, offers Internet poker to players at its flagship exchange-wagering site. The exchange site currently does not accept U.S. players, and the exchange and poker websites fall under UIGEA regulations.

Pari-mutuel wagering is allowed under the UIGEA, although the legislation has created some amount of confusion with financial institutions who have taken a cautious approach. In 2010, account-wagering sites have had difficulty processing account transfers involving credit and debit cards.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/06/legislation-would-allow-tracks-to-get-jump-on-internet-poker.aspx>

# **Del Mar Council Approves Resolution To Buy Fairgrounds**

**December 2, 2010 – 10News.com**

The Del Mar City Council Wednesday unanimously approved a resolution of intent to purchase the state-owned Del Mar Fairgrounds for \$120 million. The 340-acre parcel west of Interstate 5 and Via de la Valle is one of several properties the California government wants to unload to help balance its chronic budget deficit.

"That resolution clearly states the city's intentions to fulfill certain commitments should the sale of the fairgrounds to the city be finalized," said Del Mar Mayor Richard Earnest.

Coupled with legislation to be introduced by Sen. Christine Kehoe, D-San Diego, to clear the way for the sale, the decision is a major step forward in an effort that has been under way for most of this year. "This is an opportunity to return control of this prominent facility to local officials," county Supervisor Pam Slate-Price told reporters after the vote.

Earnest said his city will be the lead agency in a coalition of local governments that will appoint members to a regional nonprofit board to run the fairgrounds and racetrack. However, the city will not have majority control of the board, he said. "The city of Del Mar does not seek to operate the facility," Earnest said.

Of the total sale price, \$75 million will be paid up-front -- including \$30 million put up by a group of horse owners, Earnest said. The mayor said the rest will be paid via lease revenue bonds and long-term payments to the state. He said local control will ensure continued public access to the facility, which will host as many events as currently booked, if not more.

"If the facility needs to be sold or the governor wants to sell it, then it should go to public bid," said Tim Fennell, the Del Mar Fairgrounds general manager and CEO.

Mike Pegram, a prominent horse owner, said he and two other owners will not only help pay for the sale, but will pitch in for much-needed capital improvements. "We'll be able to control our own destiny," Pegram said. "Del Mar will be known as the horseman's racetrack -- that is our goal." With handles dropping because of the poor economy, the sale of the track should help stabilize the Southern California racing circuit, he said. He said he hopes to get more horse owners involved in his group.

The new ownership, with the assistance of the California Horse Racing Board, will seek to bring the prestigious Breeders Cup to Del Mar, according to Pegram. The proposed sale has also been endorsed by key environmental organizations since it will help protect the San Dieguito River Valley, which runs through the property.

Many believe the \$120 million asking price is way below what the fairgrounds is worth. The fairgrounds in Orange County recently sold for just over \$100 million. "The Orange County Fairgrounds only has 147 acres, Del Mar has over 350. It doesn't have horse racing and it has one third the revenue we have," said Fennell, who believes Del Mar is worth between \$200 million and \$300 million.

The Del Mar resolution states it would keep the annual fair and horse racing meets and other events but would block attempts to build a high-rise condo-hotel, which the current management of the fairgrounds is looking into as a way to build revenue. The bill to authorize the sale could be submitted as early as December 6, and Fennell said, "It's my hope calmer minds will prevail and the bill will be defeated."

<http://www.10news.com/news/25977845/detail.html>

## **Racing in focus at symposium**

**December 5, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times**

A trend for racetracks to pursue betting on their races throughout the world as much as betting on slot machines under their roofs has helped shift the focus of the Symposium on Racing and Gaming more from the latter to the former.

The University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program has annually presented the symposium since 1974, and this year's 37th annual event on December 6-9 in Tucson includes standard industry panels, discussions, and events brought by the Jockeys' Guild, Turf Publicists of America, Association of Racing Commissioners International, and National Thoroughbred Racing Association.

"Consolidation made sense," said Doug Reed, director of the Race Track Industry Program. "We thought it would be win-win, and hopefully other groups feel as if it is, too. Everyone is tightening the belts. We don't need to repeat a panel on technology three times a year."

The Symposium on Racing added gaming to its title and agenda in 2005, and in recent years, gaming topics have driven much of the content at the annual confab. Officials pulled back on much of that content for this year, so much so that one of the expanded gaming panels refers to the expansion of racinos as "When a blessing becomes a burden."

"The gaming part was part of a long-term plan, but we've cut back on that," Reed said. "We ramped it up when it was sort of the hot topic, but wagering and distribution of that content is an important issue now."

Panels related to wagering and simulcasting include:

- International simulcasting: A "how-to" primer to better position your product for international customers;
- International tote protocol meeting;
- New technologies and the new realities for the distribution of racing content; and
- Boutique ADWs: The who, what, and how.

"We've been working on the international simulcasting panel for awhile," Reed said. "It's better than any panel that's been presented on the subject. The [panel on boutique advance-deposit wagering outlets] could be very interesting as well."

The University of Arizona's portion of the symposium begins on December 7 (following a welcoming reception on December 6) with Churchill Downs Inc. Chief Executive officer Robert L. Evans delivering the event's keynote address titled, "Why I'm still breeding racehorses." The Versailles, Kentucky, resident maintains a broodmare band and will discuss five reasons why he is optimistic about racing's future.

Evans' comments figure to provide a good introduction to the aforementioned wagering topics because Churchill has been bullish on expanding its account wagering business.

"I was excited to have Mr. Evans do the opening address," Reed said. "He came up with a neat title, and I'm anxious to hear what he has to say. It's tough times. Having him as an opening could be provocative."

The week's events begin in earnest the afternoon of December 6 when the Jockeys' Guild and RCI team to conduct a Riders Safety Summit with participants from the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, InCompass, and the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance. RCI will have already conducted a board of directors meeting following a Rule Committee session.

The symposium often addresses the hottest technological topics in racing, and this year it will take a step forward in its own technology when it webcasts two of its panel discussions at a cost of \$25 each with all proceeds benefiting program scholarships.

"This is a test run to see if there's a market for it," Reed said. "This isn't to make money but to see if there's an interest in the product. If there is, great, and if not, then no harm in trying it."

The symposium is at the Westin La Paloma through 2011. Reed said that in January the Race Track Industry Program would send out requests for proposals from Tucson-area conference venues to play host to the event in 2012 and beyond.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/05/racing-in-focus-at-symposium.aspx>

## **Maryland racing commission rejects plan for 2011 schedule**

**November 29, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times**

The Maryland Racing Commission on Monday rejected plans by the owners of Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course to run a sharply curtailed schedule of live racing in the state in 2011.

By unanimous vote of 8-0, the commission rejected a proposal by MI Developments and Penn National Gaming, partners in operating the Maryland Jockey Club, to run 17 live racing days at Laurel in January and then 30 more live days at Pimlico in April and May.

The rejected proposal, which would have cut more than 100 days of live Thoroughbred racing from the calendar, was developed in the wake of a vote on Election Day authorizing a referendum to permit the construction of a slot machine facility at a shopping mall in Anne Arundel County near Laurel Park.

“It’s unconscionable for you not to come in here with a year-round plan for Maryland racing,” commission member David Hayden said to loud applause.

The commission’s decision throws into doubt the immediate future of Maryland racing, simulcasting and off-track betting sites, racetrack employees, horsemen and, the middle jewel in the Triple Crown, the Preakness Stakes (G1).

MI Developments and Penn National spent heavily trying to defeat the referendum in Anne Arundel in hopes it would lead to Laurel getting the opportunity to bid on a slots license. The track was expected to receive a license after the state passed legislation legalizing slots in 2008, but Magna Entertainment—then the parent of the Maryland Jockey Club—failed to meet a deadline to put up \$28.5-million for the right to bid on a license.

Following the failed referendum, track owners turned in a two-page proposal for operations next year, which was criticized on Monday by commission members and representatives of the racing community, who testified at the hearing before a standing-room-only crowd of more than 250 at Laurel Park.

The Maryland Jockey Club is scheduled to stage live racing until December 18. MI Developments and Penn National Gaming, which partnered in May, had committed to the commission to fund Maryland Jockey Club operations through the end of 2011. The companies, however, did not want to commit to live racing beyond the 47 proposed dates.

“The model is broken,” said Mike Rogers, vice president of racing and gaming for MI Developments. “We can’t continue losing money. We want to sit down with the stakeholders in here and come up with a viable plan.”

Commission members chastised Penn National official Steve Snider, saying his company had partnered with MI Developments only in hopes of obtaining a slots license at Laurel Park.

“It’s obvious your plan was to get slots and without that plan, you’re willing to let racing die,” commission chairman Louis Ulman said.

Snider denied that was the case. “We are sensitive and appreciate the emotion and passion for racing. We share that passion,” Snider said. “We are anxious to roll up our sleeves...to come up with a long-term viable plan for racing in the state of Maryland. The plan before you is a stop-gap to get us through the spring of 2011.”

Snider said MI Developments Chairman Frank Stronach approved the plan on Monday morning.

Commission members and horsemen realized the decision to reject the plan effectively shut down Maryland racing, but they felt there was no alternative.

“Unfortunately, it was the only decision they could make,” Hoffberger said. “Running 47 days puts us out of business. It wasn’t a game of chicken. It was death by 100 bullets or death by one bullet.”

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/november/29/maryland-racing-commission-rejects-plan-for-2011-schedule.aspx>

# Horse racing trumps politics, religion in Baghdad

**December 2, 2010 – Sports Illustrated**

The fans packed in to watch races at Baghdad's horse track are nothing like the mint julep-drinking, hat-wearing crowd at the Kentucky Derby.

A man sells soft drinks he's keeping on ice in a broken bathtub. A few in the throng drink beer while clutching their betting sheets and nubby pencils. Stone guard towers stand just beyond one end of the track, watching over the dusty oval where jockeys in white pants and colorful, silky shirts surge toward the finish line.

Baghdad's once-thriving horse racing industry has seen better days - and a better clientele. Nevertheless, a group of die-hard horse lovers and gamblers meets twice a week at a track in western Baghdad to bet on and cheer their favorites in one of the few areas of Iraq that is free from religion and sectarian politics.

"I would come even if tanks surround this place," said Haidar Rabat, a butcher from Baghdad who's a regular. "We come here to forget reality."

Iraq's stables were once among the most successful in the Middle East, full of well-groomed Arabian horses that drew the city's elite to races at the track's original location in the capital's upscale Mansour neighborhood.

But after a nearly 20-year ban on international racing and a war that drove many breeders into to exile and left many horses dead, the country's racing scene is in shambles.

"It's in a devastating state, a reflection of the country," said Mohammed al-Nujaifi, a member of a prominent Iraqi family that has bred, raced and exported Arabians for generations from its farm in northern Iraq.

Al-Nujaifi has bred four of the world's top horses and still owns two of them, Al-Dahis and Izz al-Khail, according to the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities.

This season, eight of his purebred Arabians will compete in Europe, while 25 of his horses - all bred on the farm in the city of Mosul - will race in Baghdad.

Fans gather every Tuesday and Saturday, betting on a five-race card featuring purebred Arabians and Anglo-Arabian horses.

They compete on a dirt oval at distances of up to 1 1/2 miles for prize money that can reach \$2,200. The exception is the 1.5-mile Baghdad Derby, which has a purse of \$4,000 and caps the track's eight-month racing season.

Though the Baghdad Derby is far from the Triple Crown circuit, the April race attracted several thousand spectators - a significant crowd in a country where insurgents target large gatherings and establishments that serve alcohol and allow gambling.

Women do not attend the races and the crowd is packed with men, many of whom are betting even though both Shiite and Sunni sects of Islam strictly forbid it.

The Baghdad Equestrian Club, as the track and stables are called, was established in the Mansour area in the 1920s. Saddam Hussein's sons were racing fans, and Iraq's deposed president liked posing for photos on horseback.

Then he ordered the invasion of Kuwait in 1990. More than a decade of international sanctions followed as horse racing was among the Iraqi sports that was kicked out of international organizations and banned from world competitions.

In another blow, Saddam ordered an end to gambling at the track in the mid-90s, after Iraqi women complained their husbands were wasting family savings wagering on horses. The betting ban - and the building of a giant mosque in

Mansour that forced the track's relocation to its current site - also was part of Saddam's efforts to earn favors with the Sunni clergy and conservative tribal leaders at a time when he was deeply unpopular due to the country's repeated wars and international sanctions.

The antigambling measures were part of a wider campaign by the dictator to curb Iraq's secular lifestyle and Western attitudes, including the free flow of alcohol.

As a result, Iraq's horse population plummeted from about 200,000 in the 1980s to around 2,000 just before the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, al-Nujaifi said, adding that the Iraqi Arabian Horse Organization's stud book listed only 200 horses late in 2002, a sharp drop from the more than 1,000 it had just a few years earlier.

"Most of the horses were killed, starved, stolen or were smuggled and sold abroad," he said.

Things only got worse after the U.S. invasion, said Mohammed Naji, the deputy president of Baghdad's Equestrian Club.

"The invasion destroyed all the club's facilities and after the occupation the looting added more destruction," said Naji, noting that the surviving horses were left hungry and wandering the countryside.

The club members invested about \$500,000 to rebuild the track in western Baghdad and racing restarted in 2004, just when a bitter sectarian war between Iraq's Sunni and Shiite populations also was brewing.

Many breeders fled the violence and kidnappings that targeted the country's middle class. Some breeders have since returned, and many see a brighter future for racing with horses being imported from Turkey and Iran.

"It's still more of a hobby than it is a job," said Bafer al-Daoud, a horse owner with four stables in Baghdad. "Although the prices of horses are getting higher, we still have a lot to do to rehabilitate the industry."

The track needs a stadium and infrastructure, including paved roads and a new sewage system, Naji said. Security, however, does not seem to be a concern for the race fans even though the site is in the former heartland of the Sunni insurgency.

Naji said he was hoping the government would notice the problems and contribute to restoring part of Iraq's national heritage. But as in many other sports, race fans have been disappointed by the government's lack of interest.

They may, however, be getting a new booster. Mohammed al-Nujaifi's brother Osama has just been elected as parliament speaker and some racing fans are hoping that he might help renew interest in their sport.

But for the crowd gathered on a recent Tuesday, even the meager track was a welcome respite from the challenges of living in Iraq.

"No politics, and no Shiites or Sunnis are allowed," said Mustak Reyan, an unemployed worker and track regular. "Here we only have eyes for horses."

[http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2010/horse\\_racing/wires/12/02/2080.ap.rac.baghdad.s.guilty.pleasure.adv05.1372/](http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2010/horse_racing/wires/12/02/2080.ap.rac.baghdad.s.guilty.pleasure.adv05.1372/)

## **Hollywood cuts two Wednesday programs**

**December 2, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form**

Hollywood Park has eliminated the final two Wednesday programs of the current autumn meeting – Dec. 8 and 15 – because of disappointing field sizes, the track announced on Thursday.

The track intended to run five days per week for the final three weeks of the autumn meeting, which ends on Dec. 19, but drew only 47 starters on an eight-race program on Wednesday. There were 50 horses scheduled to start on Thursday's eight-race program as of late morning. Neither program had a race with 10 or more starters. The track operated on a four-day week schedule – Thursdays through Sundays – for the first four weeks of the autumn meeting, from Nov. 4 through Nov. 28.

Hollywood has often struggled to attract entries in December, in the weeks before the start of the Santa Anita winter-spring meeting. Last year, the entire fall meeting averaged 7.53 runners per race. Earlier this fall, the Oak Tree at Hollywood meeting averaged 7.42 starters per race, while the current fall meeting, which began on Nov. 4, was averaging 7.34 starters through Wednesday.

There are some owners and trainers who are waiting for the Santa Anita meeting on Dec. 26 with their starters because the circuit's purse structure is scheduled to rise by approximately 25 percent with the start of the meeting because of legislation passed earlier this year that increases the takeout on exotic bets. The additional money from the increased takeout is earmarked for overnight purses. Even so, Hollywood Park racing secretary Martin Panza said he is puzzled that trainers from some of the smaller barns who have not had widespread success are not taking advantage of the smaller fields at the current meeting.

"I can't blame some people for waiting for Santa Anita because they're winning," Panza said. "There are a whole bunch of people who don't win and I don't know what they're waiting for." Panza said he is working with a horse population of "around 2,700, give or take" at Hollywood Park, and Fairplex Park.

Santa Anita will have a four-day racing week for most of January and February for its upcoming meeting, which the exception of racing on two holiday Mondays during those months.

<http://www.drf.com/news/hollywood-cuts-two-wednesday-programs>

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## **Golden Gate cancels final two Wednesday cards of meeting**

**December 3, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form**

Golden Gate Fields received permission Thursday from the California Horse Racing Board to cancel the final two Wednesday cards of its current meeting, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15. The Golden Gate request came after Hollywood Park announced earlier Thursday that it was canceling its Wednesday card on Dec. 8 and 15.

The Golden Gate fall meeting ends on Sunday, Dec. 19. The winter-spring meeting starts on Dec. 26.

<https://www.drf.com/news/golden-gate-cancels-final-two-wednesday-cards-meeting>

# **Kentucky to Require Piroplasmosis Testing**

**December 6, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture has issued a letter stating that effective Jan. 1, 2011, any horse shipping to a track in the state must have a certificate showing it is negative for equine piroplasmosis.

In a letter to state track operators, E.S. (Rusty) Ford, equine programs manager for the ag department, said he and state veterinarian Robert Stout are instituting the tests as a result of uncertainty over the prevalence of the disease, which had previously been thought to be more prevalent in Quarter Horses.

Attached to the letter was a map showing the geographic distribution of 550 horses testing positive for EP in the United States since October 2009. According to the map, the largest number of cases had been in Texas, with 432, followed by New Mexico with 25. Most other major racing/breeding states had fewer than 10 EP positives, with only one reported in Kentucky.

In his letter, Ford said an incomplete list shows negative EP certificates are required for admittance to tracks and/or training facilities in Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Equine piroplasmosis, a tick-borne non-contagious blood disease, results from infection by the protozoa *Babesia caballi* or *Theileria equi* (formerly *Babesia equi*). In most cases, piroplasmosis presents an acute infection, with fever, loss of appetite, malaise, labored or rapid respiration and congestion of the mucus membranes. In rare cases the disease can be fatal.

Earlier this year, four horses at Calder Casino & Race Course were euthanized after they tested positive for equine piroplasmosis.

Ford said the requirement that horses shipping onto grounds of a Kentucky track have a negative EP certificate would likely be in effect through the fall 2011 race meets.

"Effective January 1, 2011, no horse shall be allowed entry onto a Kentucky racetrack without verification that the required testing has been completed," Ford said. "The testing is not a requirement for racing, but simply qualifying the horse for access to the track."

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60218/kentucky-to-require-piroplasmosis-testing>

## **Training Begins on New Santa Anita Surface**

**December 6, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

Santa Anita opened its new dirt track to horses the morning of Dec. 6. With most horses still stabled across town at Hollywood Park while that meeting winds down to its Dec. 19 conclusion, a few horses galloped on the new surface, which is a mixture of 90% sand and 10% clay.

The opening on schedule was particularly satisfying to Santa Anita officials because rain pelted Southern California the night before, at times coming down hard. Project manager Ted Malloy said that they had sealed the track Dec. 5 in anticipation of the rain. They opened it back up for training the next morning with the “dogs” up.

“It’s great to be open again,” said George Haines, Santa Anita’s president. “We’re very happy—we’re right on schedule. We’ve had input from the horsemen and from the CHRB (California Horse Racing Board).”

Haines said that the track surface underwent extensive testing, including the use of a GPS device to ensure that the balance remains correct. The track, which replaces the synthetic surface that failed to drain properly, has a base of 6-8 inches and 10 inches of cushion material. Haines said that the 10 inches is cut so that the top 3 1/2 inches essentially make up the cushion on which the horses will run and the rest is compacted beneath.

The stable area opened Dec. 5, giving trainers three weeks until the traditional Dec. 26 opening of the Santa Anita winter-spring meeting. Santa Anita officials noted that about 200 horses were stabled on the grounds Dec. 6, with many more expected later in the day.

The dirt surface has already attracted trainers from out of state. Tom Proctor brought in a string and has been running at Hollywood Park. Steve Asmussen is sending a large string, and Bill Mott is expected to have horses in Southern California for the winter.

Carla Gaines and A.C. Avila were among the trainers to move in Dec. 5. Gaines brought her stable from Hollywood, while Avila came from Pomona. Darrell Vienna, who has worked with Santa Anita on the surface through the California Thoroughbred Trainers organization, was bringing his horses in Dec. 6, delaying their arrival by a day only because of the rain.

“It’s too early to judge the results, but we’re excited about the return to a natural surface,” Vienna said. “From a human standpoint, walking on it, it’s really got a great cushion. The texture is different than what we’ve had in California. It seems much finer.”

Vienna added that he was pleased with how the track took the seal with the rain.

“It looks dry—it doesn’t even look like it rained here,” he said while gazing out on the track from Clockers’ Corner.

Santa Anita officials have recommended that trainers give their horses time to become accustomed to the new surface before working them. The Pomona track is a five-furlong dirt surface, while Hollywood Park’s 1 1/8-mile main track has a Cushion Track synthetic surface.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60225/training-begins-on-new-santa-anita-surface>

# **Controversial horse owner, trainer file federal lawsuit against state Horse Racing Commission**

**November 30, 2010 – PennLive.com**

Commission officials trampled their rights in ousting them from Penn National Race Course early this year. Michael Gill and Anthony Adamo are hitting back with a federal lawsuit against the agency and three of its top executives. They claim commission leaders violated their constitutional rights by refusing to give them a chance to defend themselves against the ejection and leveling what they insist are false allegations of unethical behavior.

Nicole Bucher, a state Agriculture Department spokeswoman, declined comment on the suit. The dispute that led to Gill and Adamo's ouster went public in January when several trainers and about 25 jockeys at Penn National threatened to boycott races involving Gill's horses at the track in East Hanover Township, Dauphin County.

The threat came after a Gill horse, Laughing Moon, collapsed at the end of a race, causing a multi-horse crash. Laughing Moon was put down. The jockeys and trainers accused Gill of using performance-boosting substances and other shady practices that endangered riders and caused an unusually high rate of injuries and deaths among his horses.

On Feb. 2, the racing commission ejected Gill and Adamo, claiming their presence at Penn National "would disrupt the orderly conduct of a race meet" and have a "detrimental impact on racing." Complaints of unethical practices at the track also prompted Dauphin County District Attorney Edward M. Marsico Jr. to mount a criminal probe. His office has charged one trainer with giving stimulants to horses.

That investigation is continuing and other charges are possible, First Assistant District Attorney Fran Chardo said. Gill and Adamo seek unspecified monetary damages in their suit. Yet they claim the harm done to their reputations is nearly irreparable. A New Hampshire resident and mortgage company owner, Gill was among the sport's largest horse owners. He claims the Penn National dispute prompted him to sell his 190 horses and get out of racing.

His departure came after his steeds won purses totaling \$6.6 million in 2009, Gill claims in the U.S. Middle District Court case. Nearly half of the winnings were at Penn National. When he got out of racing, many trainers who had blasted him offered to buy his horses, Gill said, and some jockeys who had accused him of impropriety rode the mounts for new owners. Gill has denied using shady methods, such as drugging or doping horses. When the dispute with the jockeys and trainers arose, he accused critics of being jealous of his success.

In his suit, Gill claims the racing commission should have protected him and Adamo from the "illegal boycott" and fined or suspended the trainers and jockeys. Instead, Michael Dillon, the commission's former acting executive secretary, barred Gill and Adamo from the track pending resolution of the dispute. Gill claims he wasn't charged with any violations but was given 48 hours to remove 49 horses from the track. "Having no place to put the ejected horses and having his enjoyment in horse racing ruined, Gill had no real choice but to disperse his horse holdings," the suit states.

Adamo and Gill claim commission officials violated their rights by refusing their demands for hearings so they could battle the ejection order. In March, Dillon rescinded Adamo's ejection. Gill claims racing commission officials told him in July that he is permanently banned from Penn National and that no hearing will be held on his case. Gill and Adamo claim they still haven't been told why they were ousted from the track.

Adamo, a Canadian who once trained 140 of Gill's mounts, claims his rights were further breached during a hearing before Penn National stewards in March on other allegations of racing violations. He claims he wasn't allowed to see alleged evidence against him before being fined \$1,000 and suspended from the track. That same month, he was abused by commission investigators during a voluntary interview, Adamo alleges. Adamo claims he was working at the Fort Erie Race Track in Ontario when Walter Rummert, director of racing enforcement for the Pennsylvania commission, ordered him to come to Harrisburg for another interview in June. He claims Rummert told him he wasn't the target of an investigation.

Adamo claims he told Rummert he wouldn't comply because the request was "overboard" and the questioning would have repeated his March interview. Also, he claims the commission violated state law by refusing to pay his travel expenses. In

July, again without a hearing, the racing commission's operations director, Joseph Mushalko, suspended him from racing in Pennsylvania, Adamo contends. Officials at the Fort Erie track told him they had to reciprocate by also suspending him, he claims, further damaging his reputation and causing him "great financial loss."

The suspensions were lifted after Adamo complied with the commission's interview request. As Gill and Adamo pursue their suit, Charo said the only person charged in the Dauphin County probe faces a Dec. 16 arraignment in county court.

Trainer Darrel Delahoussaye is charged with administering drugs to racehorses, rigging a publicly exhibited contest, tampering with evidence and felony theft by deception. The 47-year-old Harrisburg resident is accused of using snake venom, Red Bull-based "milkshakes" and an anti-inflammatory drug to make horses run faster.

Some of those horses belonged to Gill, investigators said. Delahoussaye is free on \$20,000 bail and has been suspended from Penn National pending the outcome of the criminal case.

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2010/11/controversial\\_horse\\_owner\\_tra.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2010/11/controversial_horse_owner_tra.html)

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## **New Jersey Rescue Trustees Accused of Misappropriating Funds**

**December 6, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

The New Jersey Attorney General is accusing two trustees of a horse rescue in that state of misappropriating more than \$60,000 in contributions from online donors who thought they were saving horses from so-called kill-buyers.

In a suit filed in Superior Court of New Jersey on Dec. 2, the Office of the Attorney General and the Division of Consumer Affairs allege that between September 2009 and September 2010, N.J. Horse Angels, an unregistered charitable organization headquartered in Phillipsburg, and its trustees Sharon Catalano-Crumb and Frank Wikoff, used internet networking sites to raise \$145,132 in contributions from online donors. The rescue, which also operated under the names N.J. Horse Angels Rescue, N.J. Killpen Horses, Horse Angels of Facebook, Camelot Auction Horse Angels, and The Forgotten Angels, stated its purpose was to purchase horses at auction that were destined for processing plants in Canada and Mexico.

The suit claims that Catalano-Crumb used at least \$61,422 of those contributions to pay for trips to Atlantic City casinos, personal meals and shopping, pre-paid phone cards, and cash withdrawals. Catalano-Crumb also allegedly used the funds to purchase jewelry for Wikoff and sent cash to her son, who is serving a life sentence at Trenton State Prison. Another \$9,000 remains unaccounted for in the ongoing investigation.

Jeff Lamm spokesman for Attorney General Pam T. Dow said Dow's office and the Division of Consumer Affairs began investigating the rescue's activities after receiving complaints from donors.

"Donors contacted the rescue to find out how their contributions were being used and how the horses were being cared for, and were not satisfied with the answers," Lamm said.

Both Catalano-Crumb and Wikoff face multiple violations of New Jersey's Charitable Registration and Investigation Act. The suit seeks restitution for donors, the rescue's closure, and that Catalano-Crumb and Wikoff both be barred from working for any charitable organization in the state.

Neither Catalano-Crumb nor Wikoff could be reached for comment.

In recent years the Internet, and especially social networking sites, has developed into useful tools for linking charities with prospective supporters. Lexington, Ky., attorney Milt Toby suggests that prospective donors use caution when connecting with charities online.

"The safest advice is to not be swayed by a flashy website or social media ads soliciting 'emergency' funds to keep an animal from being sold for slaughter or for whatever reason, and only donate to rescues and other charities about which you have personal knowledge," Toby said. "A personal recommendation from someone you trust is the next best thing. You also can contact humane societies in the area where a charity is located. If there is a problem, they usually will know about it."

Prospective donors may also research an organization's status through the attorney general's office in the state in which the charity is incorporated, or at online services such as [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org), which post information and consumer comments about charitable organizations nationwide.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60220/new-jersey-rescue-trustees-accused-of-misappropriating-funds>

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## **Quiet Opening for Hialeah Park**

**December 4, 2010 – The Blood-Horse**

Hialeah Park opened its second Quarter Horse season Dec. 3 with announced attendance of 1,934 and all-sources handle of about \$12,000 per race.

The scene at the historic Hialeah, Fla., track sharply contrasted the atmosphere of Nov. 28, 2009, when the track launched its first Quarter Horse meet. That day the attendance was 26,874 and the all-sources handle for eight races was \$233,833, according to Equibase charts.

Still, Hialeah Park owner and chairman John Brunetti said he was pleased with the atmosphere on this season's opening day—a Friday. "This (attendance and handle) was about what we might expect because it was a weekday and a soft opening compared with last year," he said.

The attendance and handle through seven races were similar to many weekdays during Hialeah's first Quarter Horse meet, but Brunetti is looking beyond short-term numbers. He is focusing on his goal for late 2011 of adding a casino with Las Vegas-style slot machines and bringing back Thoroughbred racing, in a mixed meet under the track's Quarter Horse permit.

Hialeah held its most recent Thoroughbred meet in 2001. It then closed primarily because of difficulties competing with Gulfstream Park and Calder Race Course.

In the track's Nashua Room, Brunetti played host to Miami-area politicians and business people in an afternoon-long reception.

"We are finding that more people are starting to care again about Hialeah Park," Brunetti said. "Today, we showed them how our dream is moving forward."

Calder, Greyhound track Magic City Casino and Miami Jai-Alai are challenging Hialeah's plan to add a casino. In a lawsuit in a state court in Tallahassee, they maintain that a 2010 state law's provision that authorizes a casino for Hialeah violates a provision of the Florida constitution. On Nov. 22, Judge James Shelfer ruled in favor of Hialeah on one count of the four-count suit.

Basically, the plaintiffs are seeking to prevent the opening of another casino in a South Florida market that is highly competitive, and some observers say is saturated with casinos.

At the reception, Hialeah Mayor Julio Robaina said he feels that a Hialeah Park expansion could have a huge impact for the economy in his city and neighboring cities. "In addition to the casino, they are considering a retail center," he said. "I am doing radio shows and talking with business people about how the other tracks' lawsuit is not just a challenge to Hialeah but is something that could prevent job growth."

Hialeah will have Quarter Horse racing on Fridays through Sundays until Jan. 23.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/60196/quiet-opening-for-hialeah-park>

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## **Hearing set in 'Instant Racing' case**

**December 2, 2010 – The Lexington Herald-Leader**

Oral arguments have been set for Dec. 14 on the legality of allowing wagers on previously run horse races.

Franklin Circuit Judge Thomas Wingate is expected to rule on the case before the General Assembly meets in January.

At the hearing, Wingate will hear from the racetracks, the state and the Family Foundation, a conservative advocacy group that petitioned to intervene in the case.

The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission in July passed regulations to allow racetracks to take bets on "historical races," such as the type of electronic gambling known as Instant Racing.

The Family Foundation has argued such bets are illegal because the races are not live and the bets are not pooled in the same manner as traditional pari-mutuel betting.

On the day the new regulations were passed in Lexington, the state and the tracks filed a request for declaration judgment in Frankfort, asking the court to rule on whether the games are legal.

In Instant Racing, played at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas, bettors wager on the outcome of previously run races without knowing the track or the jockey. Bettors play on individual video terminals; they do not bet on the same race at the same time.

Kentucky racetracks, which have lobbied for expanded gambling, contend betting on Instant Racing would not be as lucrative for them or for the state as electronic slots or video lottery terminals.

<http://www.kentucky.com/2010/12/02/1548423/hearing-set-in-instant-racing.html>

## **InCompass Solutions president Haydon to retire**

**December 1, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times**

David Haydon, the president of InCompass Solutions Inc. and an employee of the Jockey Club since 1974, will retire at the end of the year.

Haydon has been the president of InCompass Solutions Inc., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Jockey Club, since 2001.

Haydon joined the Jockey Club as a general clerk in the statistical bureau in 1974. He was promoted to researcher in 1975 and then to manager of information services in 1976. He was appointed president of The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc. in 1989 before being named chief executive officer of newly formed Equibase Company in 1990. Haydon served as executive vice president of operations for Equibase from 1994 until 2001, when he was named president of InCompass Solutions Inc.

“David has been a cornerstone of The Jockey Club over the past three decades,” Jockey Club President James Gagliano said. “He leaves behind not only a legacy of accomplishment and achievement, but also a talented and experienced staff that will continue to serve racetracks throughout the country and the racing industry itself.”

Brad Kimbrell, the executive vice president of InCompass, will assume responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the company.

InCompass is a technology solutions company formed in 2001 to centralize the software applications and systems that serve North American racetracks and simulcast outlets. The InCompass Race Track Operations (RTO) system is installed at virtually every racetrack in North America.

“David Haydon has played a huge role in the Jockey Club’s successful development of its for-profit commercial businesses,” said his longtime colleague Alan Marzelli, who retired as president and chief operating officer of the Jockey Club in December 2009.

“At different points in time in the past 20 years, he headed up the Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., Equibase Co., and InCompass Solutions Inc. and took each from incubator stage to mature, financially sound companies that provide world-class service to their respective customers. The Jockey Club and every facet of the Thoroughbred industry should be grateful that David chose to spend his entire career with us.”

Kimbrell, a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, joined McKinnie Systems Inc. in 1982 and moved to Lexington in 1994 when The Jockey Club acquired a majority interest in the racetrack software company. In 2001, as part of the Jockey Club’s corporate restructuring, McKinnie was renamed InCompass. InCompass subsequently built a central database and integrated communications network to enhance delivery of information, products and services within the industry.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/12/01/incompass-solutions-president-haydon-to-retire.aspx>

# **Wonderland bid to simulcast from Suffolk remains on hold**

**December 2, 2010 – The MetroWest Daily News**

The State Racing Commission on Wednesday again delayed a decision on whether to allow Wonderland Greyhound Park, which has closed, to transfer its operating license to Suffolk Downs in order to resume simulcasting of greyhound races to help pay off its debt.

The track, which shut its doors in August on the heels of a voter ban on live dog racing, has asked state officials to let it relocate its simulcasting operations to Suffolk Downs in an effort to raise revenue to pay off outstanding debts.

The Revere track had eyed a casino alliance with Suffolk earlier this year, but those plans faltered when Beacon Hill leaders could not agree on an expanded gambling bill.

After hearing arguments for and against the venue transfer at a hearing Wednesday, the three-member commission said they wanted to take the matter under advisement before issuing a decision later in the day. But by later afternoon, they decided to take more time.

“The commission is not going to be making a decision today. The issue is still under advisement,” said spokesman Jason Lefferts, who was unsure when a decision might be forthcoming.

Under the proposal, Wonderland would continue to operate as a separate entity at Suffolk Downs, retaining all revenue from off-track dog betting. Suffolk Downs would be paid an administrative fee for hosting, and believes there could be some benefit to the track from tapping into a clientele interested in greyhound racing that is no longer served in the metro Boston region.

Chip Tuttle, the chief operating officer of Suffolk Downs, said the East Boston track estimates it could process \$250,000 to \$500,000 a month in simulcast bets on dog racing, generating between \$30,000 and \$60,000 a month in revenue for Wonderland that the former track could use to pay off debts.

Wonderland, according to financial statements submitted to the commission and read aloud during the hearing, owes approximately \$1.36 million in debts to various tracks, including Plainridge Racecourse, and another \$600,000 to different vendors, including \$300,000 to the city of Revere.

Asked whether he felt confident other tracks owed money by Wonderland would be willing to resume sending their simulcast signal to Wonderland at Suffolk, Richard Dalton, president of Wonderland, said he felt that the partnership with Suffolk Downs could assuage any concern.

“I think so, especially with Suffolk managing the situation I think we could work with them to make sure the billing stays current and payments are made to the past due amounts,” Dalton said, adding that he believed many out-of-state tracks were interested, if not eager, to get back into the Boston market.

Commissioner Terry Segal said he felt uncomfortable approving the transfer without a guarantee that there would be sufficient funds to pay back creditors.

“I don’t think we should be a collection agent,” Segal said. “The only reason we’re even looking at this is because you’ve filed an application to go down the street to pay liabilities, otherwise the millions you owe to tracks across the country would not be our concern.”

Segal proposed requiring Wonderland to put up an initial \$300,000 letter of credit to ensure creditors are guaranteed at least some repayment, telling Wonderland he felt they should “have some skin in the game.” He later withdrew that motion when it appeared he did not have the support of his two colleagues.

As an alternative, he said Wonderland might also consider dedicating three or four months of revenue generated from continued parking fees to pay creditors.

Wonderland counsel Kevin Considine said parking fees were already committed by preexisting agreements with Revere for real estate taxes and to the IRS for payroll taxes.

“The only comment I have is quite frankly I don’t think they’re in a position to secure a \$300,000 letter of credit at this point,” Considine said.

Frank Frisoli, of the New England Horseman Benevolent and Protective Association, rose in opposition to the relocation, arguing that introducing greyhound simulcasting racing at Suffolk Downs would hurt thoroughbred horse racing.

Frisoli said the potential to dilute the betting market at Suffolk Downs would have a “direct dollar for dollar impact on our industry.”

An attorney for the Plainridge Racecourse, one of the tracks owed thousands by Wonderland, pressed the commission to put conditions on any venue transfer approval to guarantee that tracks like Plainridge and their horsemen would be repaid. Wonderland was prohibited from continuing to simulcast races from Plainridge in early July 2010 for failure to pay in excess of \$35,000 in fees owed for the right to simulcast races from that track.

Tuttle said he did not share the horsemen’s concerns about diluting the market, noting that Suffolk Downs already has a license to simulcast dog races if it chose to. Tuttle said one of the main reasons his track stopped simulcasting greyhound races in 2009 was because of Wonderland’s proximity. He did not rule out resuming greyhound simulcasts at Suffolk Downs if the transfer was denied.

“We do feel there may be an opportunity to attract a different audience and fans who were patronizing Wonderland and now are not,” Tuttle said.

The commission initially appeared ready to vote on the matter until opponents pressed them to consider putting conditions on any approval. Chairman Joe Vanderventer called for a brief recess before they decided to take the issue under advisement and adjourned.

The possibility of resuming simulcast greyhound racing in the Greater Boston market comes as opponents of greyhound racing appear to be losing patience with the limited progress being made toward banning simulcast dog racing altogether.

Carey Theil, executive director of GREY2K USA, said that if no progress is made during the next legislative session to phase out simulcast greyhound racing, his organization will “have no choice but to fight any and all efforts that will extend simulcasting, and that includes the gaming bills.”

“After the election, we did tolerate a temporary extension of simulcasting as an olive branch to track workers, but that was always intended to be temporary,” Theil said.

The language of the 2008 ballot question that took effect Jan. 1, 2010 banned “dog racing or racing meeting where any form of betting or wagering on the speed or ability of dogs occurs.” The Legislature, subsequent to the passage of the initiative, approved a statute this past July extending simulcast rights of the state’s tracks.

“I do think in regard to greyhound simulcasting, the Legislature did not fully follow the will of the voters, but having said that it was something we tolerated,” Theil said.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen, according to Theil, intends to file a bill in the next session that would phase out all off-track simulcast betting on greyhounds by Jan. 1, 2013.

Dalton said that by pushing to resume greyhound simulcasting at Suffolk Downs he was just following the direction set by the Legislature when it extended the simulcast law.

“There are a lot of bills filed every year and many don’t see the light of day so we’ll have to see how that plays out,” Dalton said.

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x1996680266/Wonderland-bid-to-simulcast-from-Suffolk-remains-on-hold>

# **American Graded Stakes Committee releases 2011 graded stakes tally**

**December 2, 2010 - Brisnet**

The American Graded Stakes Committee of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA) on Thursday presented its listing of U.S. graded stakes for 2011, the results of its annual grading session conducted on Wednesday in Lexington, Kentucky.

The Committee reviewed 689 unrestricted U.S. stakes races with a purse of at least \$75,000, and assigned graded status to 474 of them, 13 fewer than were graded in 2010. A total of five graded races were upgraded, including one new Grade 1 race and four new Grade 2 races; five new Grade 3 races were identified. Eight races which carried graded status in 2010 are no longer eligible for grading.

One race was upgraded to Grade 1 status for 2011 -- the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf.

One race was downgraded from Grade 1 to Grade 2 for 2011 -- the Clement L. Hirsch Memorial Turf Championship S. at Oak Tree at Hollywood Park. The Pimlico Special at Pimlico was not eligible for grading in 2011.

Four races were upgraded to Grade 2 status for 2011 -- the With Anticipation S. at Saratoga, Tampa Bay Derby at Tampa Bay Downs, Breeders' Cup Marathon and Presque Isle Downs Masters S. at Presque Isle Downs.

Five races were downgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 3 in 2011 -- the Lane's End S. at Turfway Park, Lexington S. at Keeneland, Prairie Meadows Cornhusker H. at Prairie Meadows, San Francisco Mile S. at Golden Gate Fields and Allaire DuPont Distaff H. at Pimlico. The Frank J. De Francis Memorial S. at Laurel Park and Dahlia H. at Hollywood were not eligible for grading in 2011.

Five races were upgraded to Grade 3 status for 2011 -- the Charles Town Classic S. at Charles Town, Tampa Bay S. at Tampa Bay Downs, Turf Monster H. at Philadelphia Park, Jessamine S. at Keeneland and Marshua's River S. at Gulfstream Park.

Ten races were downgraded from Grade 3 to ungraded status for 2011 -- the Lone Star Derby at Lone Star Park, Tropical Park Derby at Calder Race Course, Chick Lang S. at Pimlico, Memorial Day H. at Calder, Queens County H. at Aqueduct, Robert F. Carey Memorial H. at Hawthorne, Kenny Noe Jr. H. at Calder, Florida Oaks at Tampa Bay Downs, Santa Paula S. at Santa Anita and Stage Door Betty H. at Calder.

The Massachusetts H. at Suffolk Downs, Carleton F. Burke H. at Oak Tree at Hollywood, Sport Page H. at Belmont Park, Hollywood Turf Express H. at Hollywood and Hawthorne H. at Hollywood were not eligible for grading in 2011.

<http://www.brisnet.com/cgi-bin/editorial/journal/article.cgi?id=20563>

# Regulatory Employment Positions

***Position Open to Candidates***  
**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Executive Secretary (Director)**  
**Virginia Racing Commission**

Located in New Kent (Richmond area), Virginia, this full-time position is responsible for the daily operations of the state agency regulating pari-mutuel thoroughbred and standardbred racing in Virginia. The Executive Secretary reports directly to the five-member Racing Commission which is appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth. The Virginia Racing Commission is responsible for promoting sustaining and growing the native horse racing industry in Virginia, including control of all horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering conducted in the Commonwealth. For a detailed job description, on-line application and more information, please visit [www.vrc.virginia.gov](http://www.vrc.virginia.gov).

Qualifications—

General knowledge of horse racing, breeding and pari-mutuel wagering preferred. Demonstrated management skills. Experience in working with the Administration of government and the legislative process. Basic knowledge of accounting procedures and budget preparations. Skill in communicating with racing commissioners, general public, political and business leaders and horse racing stakeholders. Some college preferred with course work emphasis on management, administration, public relations or accounting.

Deadline for Applying—December 15, 2010—Must Be Filed On-line

**Contact Info: Name, Phone, e-mail**

Debbie Wyatt-Smith  
Department of Human Resource Management  
101 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Monroe Building, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219  
804-225-2007  
[Debbie.wyattsmith@dhrm.virginia.gov](mailto:Debbie.wyattsmith@dhrm.virginia.gov)

The Commonwealth of Virginia Is An Equal Opportunity Employer

## Position Wanted

Regulatory Affairs Director (Racing)  
Evaluation of existing racing integrity protocols, design and implementation of pre-race horse inspection programs, blood-gas and out-of-competition testing protocols, furosemide/permitted medication administration procedures, etc.

Consultations available.

Inquiries to: [racingregulatoryaffairs@gmail.com](mailto:racingregulatoryaffairs@gmail.com)

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## Quality Control Coordinator – Part Time

Equibase is the Thoroughbred industry's official database for racing information. We are currently looking for part-time personnel. Work includes customer service, online support, data entry, proofreading and special projects as assigned. Qualified candidates must have basic typing and computer skills, the ability to function under deadline conditions, attention to detail, problem solving skills, dependability, and an excellent work ethic. HTML experience is desirable. Knowledge of the Thoroughbred industry a plus, but not required.

Part time positions are for 20-30 hours per week. Equibase operates 7 days a week, 12 hours a day. Scheduled hours includes weekend and evenings until 9pm, Sunday hours may be required.

Starting pay is \$8.50/hr.

Qualified candidates may apply in person or direct their current resumes to:

**EQUIBASE**  
C O M P A N Y

Attention: Recruiting

821 Corporate Drive

Lexington, KY 40503

FAX: 859-224-2710

recruiter@equibase.com

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**Do you know a groom who deserves special recognition for outstanding work?**

**Nominate him or her for the**

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**Groom of the Year Award**



**To nominate a groom, all you need to do is write a detailed letter explaining why the groom is deserving of the honor of Groom of the Year.**

**Send with this letter:**

- Groom's name, address, phone number, and windbreaker jacket size
- Your name, address, and phone number

**Mail, e-mail, or fax all information to:**

**Harness Tracks of America**

**4640 East Sunrise, Suite 200**

**Tucson, AZ 85718**

**E-mail: [jen@harnesstracks.com](mailto:jen@harnesstracks.com) - Fax: (520) 529-3235**

**All grooms nominated will receive a certificate of excellence and the first 50 nominations also will receive a handsome HTA/Hanover Shoe Farms satin windbreaker jacket.**

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS DECEMBER 31, 2010**



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