



RCI BULLETIN

1510 NEWTOWN PIKE, SUITE 210
LEXINGTON, KY 40511

PHONE: (859) 224-7070 FAX: (859) 224-7071
EMAIL: SUPPORT@ARCI.COM

Volume 77, Issue 9
September 27, 2010

RCI Model Rules Committee Recommends Lowering Bute Threshold

September 17, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times

Citing the need to err on the side of caution, the Association of Racing Commissioners International Model Rules Committee recommends lowering the phenylbutazone threshold by 60%, though horsemen groups oppose the change.

In a 12-0 vote on Friday, the committee said the model rule threshold level of the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug should be lowered from 5.0 micrograms to 2.0 micrograms. The recommendation is in line with the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, which believes the lower threshold level will allow for improved pre-race veterinary testing. RCI President Ed Martin said the committee received detailed information from groups on both sides of the argument. Ultimately, he said, the choice came down to the idea that the new standard would benefit the welfare of the equine athlete.

“At no point during the Model Rules Committee’s deliberate review process did opponents of this policy change present an argument as to why the administration of phenylbutazone close enough to race time to trigger a five-microgram threshold was absolutely necessary to the health of the horse,” Martin said. “The unanswered question by those in opposition to the proposed policy change is why a horse in pain requiring an administration of phenylbutazone at their suggested level should be racing.”

The committee’s recommendation will be considered for adoption in October by the RCI Board of Directors. While the RCI recommends model rules, it is up to each member state to adopt such rules.

Currently some states have the 5.0-microgram model-rule standard while others have lowered the standard to 2.0 micrograms, which would require a smaller dose be given to a Thoroughbred or that the dose be given at an earlier time relative to race day. The RCI Regulatory Veterinarians Committee recommended the lower standard because they feared phenylbutazone could be masking injuries during pre-race examinations.

They noted that these exams, in which they have the authority to scratch horses who show signs of lameness, typically are conducted in the mornings. They believe lowering the threshold will require horsemen to assure that the drug is out of the horse’s system at the time the exams are conducted.

In July, the National Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association board opposed the threshold change for Bute, saying there is no scientific evidence that the current level affects prerace exam accuracy. The board also said the scientific community is not unanimous in its opinion on the current level’s impact of athletic performance and the 5.0-microgram level provides a safety margin to avoid inappropriate positives.

DAN HARTMAN
Colorado
Chair

EDWARD MARTIN
RCI
President/CEO

WILLIAM KOESTER
Ohio
Chair Elect

JOHN SABINI
New York
Secretary/Treasurer

The Racing Medication and Testing Consortium agreed with the regulatory veterinarians' concerns and recommended the lower threshold. While recognizing the study was not scientific, RMTTC Executive Director Scot Waterman, D.V.M., said two states that in recent years went from 2.0 to 5.0 saw increased catastrophic breakdowns. When one of those states returned to the 2.0 level, breakdown numbers declined.

Martin said besides those concerns, horse health may be adversely affected by Bute.

"Phenylbutazone treats muscular sprains, tendonitis, acute joint injury, and arthritic conditions. There are clear warnings that its overuse could seriously jeopardize equine health. The misuse of this drug may be hurtful to our horses, causing ulcers or hemorrhages in the esophagus and gastrointestinal tract, diarrhea, low white blood cell count, anemia, and intestinal, kidney, and liver disease," Martin said. "Because our horses cannot speak, we believe there is no other choice but to be cautious. Even if we were to agree--and we are not--with those who claim that the process by which the science was assessed was flawed, the prudent course for public policy makers would be to err on the side of caution in the interest of the horse and rider."

Jockey's Guild National Manager Terry Meyocks said his organization supports the lower threshold as a way to improve pre-race exams and reduce equine breakdowns. Other groups supporting the change included the RCI Drug Testing Standards and Practices Committee, the Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee, the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, and the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

Besides the National HBPA, the Thoroughbred Owners of California and the California Thoroughbred Trainers submitted statements opposing the change.

"Absent a compelling and convincing medical reason to the contrary, the RCI Model Rules committee has concluded that it is in the interest of the horse that the proposed change be adopted," Martin said. "The committee approved this change primarily to address the concerns raised by the regulatory veterinarians."

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/September/17/RCI-committee-recommends-lowering-Bute-threshold.aspx>

Casino Gambling Back On Iowa Ballot

September 26, 2010 – Quad City Times

Voters who remember to flip over their ballots on Nov. 2 will be asked whether they want gambling allowed in Scott, Clinton and more than a dozen other Iowa counties.

Gaming operators are confident their odds of staying in business are good, as no county has ever voted out gambling once it's been established since riverboats came to the state in 1991. Meanwhile, opponents cite apathy and the impossibility of overcoming entrenched political support for gambling as the reason for a lack of organized opposition to this year's referendums. State legislation passed in 1994 requires the gaming question to appear on ballots every eight years. In 2002, Scott County voters supported extending gambling by a 73 percent to 27 percent margin.

"There is somewhat of a comfort level knowing it has passed multiple times," said Jill Haynes, spokeswoman for Isle of Capri Casino, which operates both casinos in Scott County. "But it's an election, and we respect the citizens' right to vote. But everything we're hearing is positive."

Nonetheless, Isle and other casino companies will run advertising campaigns across the state and will rely on the various nonprofit development authorities that hold their licenses to do face-to-face education campaigns to bolster the odds of approval.

Mary Ellen Chamberlin, president of the Riverboat Development Authority in Davenport, said polling indicates broad support for the casinos. "They are within range of the last referendum," she said. "And our polling is about the same across all demographic groups, ages, gender and political affiliation."

Chamberlin said there is some concern that two issues — the judge retentions that also are on the back of the ballot and the city of Davenport’s pursuit of a new operator to take over Isle’s license for its Rhythm City Casino — could be wild cards.

She noted that former Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Vander Plaats — who is heading up the effort to unseat three of Iowa’s Supreme Court justices — also is a gambling opponent. She said she does not know how many supporters he has in Scott County and whether they also will vote against the gambling measure.

On the issue of a new operator, Chamberlin is hopeful that doesn’t play a role. “I don’t think voters should take this as a referendum on any operator or any community,” she said. “It should be a referendum on whether we want gaming in Scott County or not. No operator can be here at all if we can’t have gaming.”

Opponents voice their concerns

Tom Coates, director of Consumer Credit of Des Moines and a longtime gambling opponent, said it is hard to gin up enthusiasm for what appears, at this point, to be a lost cause.

“People like myself, and many others that see the problems of gambling, are just so discouraged,” he said. “Paid lobbyists swarm over legislators like locusts. I think they’ve kind of beat down the opposition. It’s so entrenched and so tied into both political parties that there’s not much that can be done.”

Coates said the perception is that the state and local governments are seeing large economic benefits from gambling. However, he said, several studies show that is not the case. “The casinos are actually a negative economic generator,” he said. “The money that would have gone to other legitimate businesses are redirected to the casinos because Iowa is not a tourism model and they aren’t bringing in outside money. The social costs — bankruptcy, debt, even suicide — are also tremendous.”

But Chamberlin and Terri Ping, director of the Scott County Regional Authority in Bettendorf, said there are positive, tangible results from gaming all over the region. Between 1991 and 2010, the two development authorities issued \$107 million in grants from gaming proceeds to nonprofit groups in the arts, education, emergency services, parks and recreation, health and other areas.

In addition, the two casinos employ 772 people with a payroll approaching \$400 million since 2000. The casinos have contributed a total of \$644 million to state, county and local tax coffers and the nonprofit groups over the same 10-year period, the development authorities said.

“We joke that we have probably bought at least five computers for every kid in Scott County over the years, and every fire truck in every small town,” Ping said.

Clinton, Jackson counties also vote

In the region, both Clinton and Jackson counties will have the gaming referendum on their ballot. Clinton County’s will be a similar reaffirmation to Scott County’s, to continue the Wild Rose Casino & Resort’s land-based casino on the west side of Clinton. Jackson County residents will be asked again whether they approve allowing gambling in the county, although there are no casinos and never have been. Jackson County Supervisor Chairman Steve Flynn said the issue is on the ballot “in case” one of the river towns wants to pursue gambling.

“If there would be a dock in Bellevue or the riverboats come back, we’d would want it available. Maybe there could be something in Sabula,” Flynn said. There are no plans in the works for such gambling establishments in Jackson County. County residents approved the issue eight years ago when it was last on the ballot.

http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/article_d4db2d44-c90b-11df-ba05-001cc4c03286.html

Betfair Responds To Critics Of Its Business Model In England

September 23, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times

British betting exchange Betfair submitted a four-page document in late August that responds to questions about its business model from the Horserace Betting Levy Board. The Horserace Betting Levy Board raises money for British racing by collecting a statutory levy from off-course betting on British racing, the Tote, and on-course bookmakers. Off-course betting, which is now the greatest proportion of the board's income, includes exchange outlets such as Betfair, which also owns the California-based Television Games Network.

British Horseracing Authority Chairman Paul Roy suggested earlier this week that Betfair would need to pay more to racing interests. While Betfair officials in the U.S. declined to respond directly, the document the company submitted to the levy board outlines the company's position. Betfair said in the document that a key to its success is that it pays a charge based on profit as opposed to handle, a model it believes has been beneficial to the company, players, and racing. Betfair prefers to continue the current levy on gross profits in England. In the U.S., Betfair officials said they are willing to be flexible but they would, at least initially, pursue a similar model as states like California and New Jersey are considering allowing exchange wagering.

"It is not surprise that a charge which is based on profit and not turnover will foster innovation and reduce the cost to the consumer," the Betfair document said.

In the U.S., pari-mutuel wagering includes a takeout based on total wagering. That takeout money is used to pay racetracks and purses. In England, Betfair pays 10% of gross profits—as opposed to total handle—to the levy. The levy helps pay for purses, racecourse improvements, and breed funds.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/September/23/Betfair-responds-to-critics-of-its-business-model-in-England.aspx>

All-Sources Handle Increases 14% At Kentucky Downs

September 23, 2010 – The Blood-Horse

Total wagering during the four-day Kentucky Downs meet that ended Sept. 20 rose 14%, with a 4% increase in on-track handle at the all-turf track in Franklin, Ky. Kentucky Downs reported total wagering of \$4,473,195, with \$304,909 in on-track handle. With free admission, the track does not report attendance figures.

Purses during the meet totaled \$785,000 and there were an average 9.3 starters per race.

"We had a tremendous live racing season," general manager Jon Goodman said in a statement. "The quality of racing was outstanding and there was a great deal of enthusiasm from our fans and horsemen which made it an enjoyable for everyone."

Kentucky Downs also held its second "Southern Nights Benefit Bash" that raised \$35,000 for six local charities.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/58975/all-source-handle-up-14-at-kentucky-downs>

Marla Bickel Named Blood-Horse Publisher, CEO

September 14, 2010 – The BloodHorse

The Board of Trustees of Blood-Horse Publications announced Sept. 13 that Marla Bickel has been appointed as Publisher & CEO, succeeding Stacy V. Bearse, who will retire from the company on Nov. 1.

"I applaud the Board's selection," said Bearse. "Marla is one of the brightest and most progressive professionals I've encountered during my years in publishing. I have no doubt that she will continue to develop innovative new ways to serve our global audience of readers and marketing partners."

Bickel joined Blood-Horse Publications (BHP) in 2006 as director of circulation and was promoted to vice president of operations in 2008. She has over 20 years of experience in publishing both trade and consumer magazines. Prior to joining Blood-Horse Publications, Marla was a sales director and publisher at The National Underwriter Company (now Summit Business Media). Under her leadership, the BHP embarked on a number of significant transformations. Traditional direct-mail solicitation was largely abandoned for digital audience-development methods. And, a series of new business ventures were developed to meet a burgeoning demand for fast, authoritative delivery of content. These new products included electronic newsletters, webinars and the TrueNicks data service. Marla serves as a Director of TrueNicks LLC.

When asked to comment on her new role, Bickel said, "We have a long-standing reputation as the relevant, reliable and authoritative voice in the industries we serve. I will continue to meet that expectation while developing innovative media and marketing services to help advertisers achieve their goals. I will be looking to attract a sales professional from outside our organization to work with our sales team to implement customized solutions for our customers."

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/58872/marla-bickel-named-blood-horse-publisher-ceo>

Top UK Greyhound 'Given Cocaine'

A GREYHOUND trainer linked to Owlerton Stadium in Sheffield is to face an inquiry after one of his dogs tested positive for cocaine after a race. Stuart Mason, advertised on Owlerton Stadium's website as one of its professional trainers, faces a Greyhound Board of Great Britain inquiry after his dog Droopys Arshavin tested positive for the Class A drug after a race at Wimbledon on August 3.

A spokesman for the Greyhound Board of Great Britain, which governs licensed racing, confirmed Mr Mason is under investigation. His case is expected to be heard next month. Owlerton Stadium confirmed Mr Mason, from Wakefield, is "attached" and regularly races dogs there. Droopys Arshavin was at the track the week after the positive drug test.

Trainers elsewhere have been found to have used drugs, including cocaine and amphetamines, in a bid to make dogs run faster. John Gilburn, managing director of Owlerton Stadium, said: "We can confirm that Stuart Mason will be subject to a disciplinary inquiry by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain. The standard procedure is that a full GBGB investigation takes place, followed, if appropriate, by disciplinary action. We cannot comment further until the full inquiry has taken place."

Greyhound Action, an international greyhound protection group, has spoken out about drugging. UK co-ordinator Tony Peters said: "Sadly, the doping of racing greyhounds appears to be widespread and most of it goes undetected." For public relations reasons, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain makes a show of trying to catch offenders. From time to time, somebody is charged, but this case is really only the tip of a very large iceberg. "Our main concern is the harm it causes to the dogs and the risk to their lives."

<http://www.thestar.co.uk/news/Top-greyhound-39given-cocaine39-.6525719.jp>

British Horseracing Authority Blasts Betfair

September 22, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times

The chairman of the British Horseracing Authority said Betfair is not returning enough money to racing and its business model needs corrective action.

Following this week's announcement that Betfair plans to list on the London Stock Exchange, British Horseracing Authority Chairman Paul Roy used the spotlight of that decision to call for changes in the company that offers the world's most successful exchange wagering platform. He said the Horserace Betting Levy Board has determined Betfair is not paying enough to racing.

"There remain a number of fundamental questions around the business of exchange betting. We are confident that these will be resolved as part of the wider issue of the relationship between racing and betting," Roy said. "The new government has signaled its policy commitment to ensuring a value transfer from betting to racing as it sets policy to catch up with changes in technology and the way people bet."

Roy also suggested Betfair may have underpaid racing by \$46.5-million, based on a "leading betting industry figure." He said authorities are putting the relationship between exchange betting and racing under scrutiny.

"The markets will understand that we are in the midst of a new process which will decide the basis on which all parts of the betting industry, including Betfair, will contribute to the Levy," Roy said. "It is clear the contribution is going to have to be on a significantly different basis to what has gone before. We are ready for serious dialogue with the betting industry, which includes exchanges, through the levy board. We await the betting industry's position."

Earlier this month the British Horseracing Authority launched its Racing United Campaign for a Fair Levy after noting that levy funding, paid from betting outlets to racing, had dropped from \$178.5-million in 2008 to \$116.4-million this year.

Patrick Nixon, chief executive of the Association of British Bookmakers, told the London *Telegraph* that funding has dropped because of a decline in handle and that bookmakers are putting more money into racing through media rights, sponsorships, and the levy. A Betfair spokeswoman told the *Telegraph* that Betfair, "pays the full rate of the Levy in exactly the same way as any other U.K. bookmaker. Previous government reviews have concluded there is no case for treating exchanges or their customers any differently to any other bookmaker or their customers. Nothing has changed."

Betfair received government approval to offer wagering through a system based on database rights. Roy said that system is no longer working and that Betfair is not paying a fair amount to racing while it continues to secure a larger piece of the race wagering pie.

"We would entirely agree that Betfair has been disruptive and fundamentally changed the sports betting market," Roy said. "Whether intended or not, it has certainly disrupted British Racing's finances and has created severe consequences. It has indeed, for its customers, eliminated the need for a traditional bookmaker, and markets itself as cutting out the middle man. At the same time, Betfair has argued it should be treated as a traditional bookmaker for the purposes of its contribution to our sport. Betfair cannot have it both ways."

Currently, lawmakers in California and New Jersey are considering allowing exchange wagering. To receive approval from U.S. tracks and horsemen, Betfair has acknowledged that a business plan in the U.S. would have to be different from its United Kingdom model. Roy seems to be calling for a similar commitment in England, although such changes could reduce Betfair's attraction—its low takeout—to customers.

"Any international racing jurisdiction considering permitting Betfair to operate in their territory has to give very careful consideration to the impact on their sport, and learn from the British experience," Roy said. "In fact, we understand that they are offering far better terms to other racing authorities, and we call on Betfair to now engage with us constructively and end the uncertainty."

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/international-news/2010/September/22/British-Horseracing-Authority-blasts-Betfair.aspx>

Santa Anita Requests Oak Tree Dates Takeover

September 23, 2010 – The BloodHorse

Santa Anita applied for the traditional Oak Tree Racing Association dates for 2011 during a Sept. 22 California Horse Racing Board race dates committee meeting. That put Santa Anita in direct competition for the dates, Sept. 28-Nov. 6, with Oak Tree, which until this year has run its dates at Santa Anita under a lease agreement but is now at Hollywood Park.

The full CHRB board listened to comments from representatives of Oak Tree, Hollywood Park, and Santa Anita during the dates meeting. A vote on the 2011 California racing dates is on the agenda for Sept. 23 CHRB meeting.

Sherwood Chillingworth, executive vice president of Oak Tree, urged the board to consider “the equity of the situation.” He pointed out that MI Developments, which owns Santa Anita, voided its lease with Oak Tree and now is seeking the same dates. Oak Tree is scheduled to run its 2010 meeting at Hollywood. If Oak Tree receives its traditional dates in the future, it plans to run at Hollywood in 2011 and move to Del Mar for 2012 and beyond. Chillingworth noted that Oak Tree is a not-for-profit organization that has contributed more than \$27 million to charities both within and outside of the equine industry since its inception in 1968.

CHRB chairman Keith Brackpool asked whether Hollywood’s arrangement with Oak Tree constituted a guarantee that Hollywood would remain open through 2011. Jack Liebau of Hollywood Park assured him that it did. Brackpool pointed out that in the past, Hollywood ownership, which ultimately wants to develop the track property, has not been willing to commit to live racing beyond a six-month window.

Scott Daruty and George Haines spoke on behalf of Santa Anita. Daruty said that MID has “a deep passion and deep commitment to horse racing in California” and had made a recent pledge of a major investment—replacing the main-track surface at Santa Anita. “No matter how deep that passion and commitment,” Daruty said, “Santa Anita is not sustainable on a long-term basis running 17 weeks a year.”

Daruty urged the board to “focus on what is best for racing in California.” He added what he called a bold statement by saying, “Santa Anita is a better racing facility than Hollywood Park. It’s a better experience for the on-track customer. It’s more favorable to the bettors offtrack and out of state.”

Under Hollywood’s dates proposal, which includes the Oak Tree meet at Hollywood, racing in 2011 would be conducted at Hollywood for 25 weeks, while Santa Anita would run 16 weeks, beginning with its traditional Dec. 26 opening. “What’s our motto: ‘California, it’s not our best track, but we think you’ll like it,’” asked Daruty. “That’s not putting our best foot forward. This is about what is best for racing.”

Brackpool responded by saying, “I think the speech would be far more relevant had we taken the dates away from you and you not voluntarily terminated the arrangement.”

CHRB commissioner David Israel told Daruty that he didn’t think Santa Anita went far enough, but suggested that a radical alteration of the Southern California dates calendar needs another year to resolve. “No one owns the dates,” Israel said. “They belong to the state of California. In that reconfiguration, we need to start with a blank slate. I don’t think that’s practical in 2011.”

To a question from Commissioner Bo Derek regarding whether Santa Anita management felt that Oak Tree should apply for other dates or dissolve, Daruty noted that when Hollywood is developed, many dates will open up as options for Oak Tree, Santa Anita, and Del Mar. “Part of the purpose today, I think, is to start this dialog,” Daruty said. “Are we going to sit here year after year after year and wait to see what Hollywood Park decides?”

“But you’re not asking for some of those Hollywood Park’s dates,” said Derek. “You’re asking specifically for the Oak Tree dates.”

“We would welcome the Hollywood Park dates in lieu of the Oak Tree dates,” said Daruty. “Historically, those six weeks (of Oak Tree) were run at the Santa Anita facility. Yes, they were run by a different association, but they were run at the Santa Anita facility. And we thought the least radical suggestion was to continue to run those six weeks at Santa Anita.”

Though most attention during the meeting focused on the Southern California dates, the board also examined the Northern California applications from Golden Gate Fields and the various fair race meetings. Golden Gate and the California Authority of Racing Fairs’ applications differed in several respects, though the main point of contention was whether the Humboldt County Fair at Ferndale should be allowed a week of no overlap with another northern race meeting. Ferndale raced under that arrangement for the first time in 2010.

Ferndale management contends that its survival depends on the additional revenue, some \$250,000 this summer, that it accrues from no competition. However, the reduction in purses, commissions, and other revenues to the entire California racing industry with no overlap resulted in a loss to the industry of nearly \$900,000, it was reported. Commissioner Jesse Choper suggested that the industry find a way to subsidize Ferndale so that the overlap could continue without threatening Ferndale’s demise.

Other proposed changes to the Northern California calendar include a new three-week meeting at Pleasanton in March to help finance keeping the Alameda County Fair site open as a training facility throughout the year.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/59014/santa-anita-requests-oak-tree-dates-takeover>

Ohio Commission Approves 17 Fewer 2011 Dates

September 22, 2010 – HarnessRacing.com

The Ohio Racing Commission, based on requests from the state’s harness racetracks, approved fewer live racing dates for 2011 at its September meeting, held this morning at the Delaware County Fairgrounds.

The four harness tracks, Northfield Park, Raceway Park, Scioto Downs and Lebanon Raceway, were approved for 366 racing dates, 17 fewer than they had requested for the current year. Only Northfield Park, which asked for 213 dates, and one additional date for the Summit County Fair meet, requested as many dates as they did last year. Toledo’s Raceway Park, which applied for 40 dates--down from 55 requested for 2010--amended its application to 46 dates, based upon a recent agreement with the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association.

“Our horse population has been down by more than 27 percent this year,” Bill McLaughlin, Raceway Park’s general manager told the commissioners when asked why the track, owned by Penn National Gaming, was asking for substantially fewer live race dates.

The Toledo track also received permission from regulators to trim its Oct. 16, 17, 23 and 24 race dates from the 2010 calendar. “Northville (Downs) opens tomorrow, Windsor is racing and Lebanon is about to open,” McLaughlin said. “When that happens we lose horses.”

Scioto Downs requested 56 dates but was assigned 57 by the commission, down six from their 2010 assignment, and Lebanon Raceway was granted 50 dates to be split between its Miami Valley and Lebanon Trotting Club meets, down only two dates from their 2010 allotment. (USTA)

<http://www.harnessracing.com/news/ohiocommissionapproves17fewer2011dates.html>

Eleven Internet Gambling Cafes Raided in Virginia

September 25, 2010 – CasinoGamblingWeb.com

Internet cafes have become one of the most popular places for gamblers to convene around the US in recent years. The sweepstakes cafes offer customers a chance to buy Internet time, and then use the purchased time to play games that could be found at a casino.

In Virginia, eleven of these cafes found out the hard way that law enforcement agencies were not fond of their operations. Eleven Internet cafes were raided by Virginia police, although no arrest were made in any of the raids.

Officials around the country have been raiding these cafes at a high rate in the past year. The Virginia raid netted the police 500 seized computers and other paraphernalia that could have been used in the operations. The laws in Virginia are murky when it comes to the sweepstakes games.

Reports coming out of Virginia are suggesting that over a dozen of the Internet cafes have operating licenses in the state. The debate has come over whether the sweepstakes games that the establishments are offering, are legal under Virginia law. Recently, Virginia Attorney general Ken Cuccinelli issued an opinion suggesting that the devices were illegal.

Each jurisdiction was advised by Cuccinelli to make their own determination of how to interpret the law. In Virginia Beach, the city attorney claims that the city did due diligence to find out whether the sweepstakes games were legal, before they authorized the raids.

The raid came after a six month undercover investigation took place in which customers were paid out in cash for their sweepstakes winnings. Charges could be forthcoming in the case, and that will lead to a court battle where a determination will have to be handed down from a court regarding the sweepstakes games.

<http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/gambling-law/eleven-internet-gambling-cafes-raided-in-virginia-55763.html>

Thoroughbred Owner Rizzo Arrested In California Scandal

September 22, 2010 – The Thoroughbred Times

Robert Rizzo, a Thoroughbred owner at the center of a scandal regarding salaries for city leaders in one of Southern California's poorest communities, was one of eight current and former officials arrested on Tuesday on charges of misappropriating more than \$5.5-million.

Rizzo races mostly at Emerald Downs and Golden Gate Fields. His Rizzo Racing Stable Inc. has started ten horses this year, collecting six wins from 38 starters and \$43,373 in earnings. His top runners have included Irene's Bonus Baby, who won the \$100,000 Barbara Shinpoch Stakes in 2006 at Emerald, and Princess Hiawatha, who finished second in the '07 Barbara Shinpoch and Angie C. Stakes.

Rizzo owns a ranch near Emerald in Auburn, Washington. He resigned as city manager of Bell, California, in July after the Los Angeles *Times* made public his annual salary of nearly \$800,000 and total compensation package of \$1.5-million.

Accused of illegally writing his own employment contracts and steering nearly \$1.9-million in unauthorized city loans to himself and others, Rizzo was charged with 53 counts of misappropriation of public funds and conflict of interest and was held on \$3.2-million bail in Los Angeles County jail.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/national-news/2010/September/22/Thoroughbred-owner-Rizzo-arrested-in-California-scandal.aspx>

Online Gambling Domain Owners Must Show Up In Kentucky Court

September 24, 2010 – Casino Gambling Web

The battle over the seizure of 141 online gambling website domain names in Kentucky will move along in the court system, but the owners of the sites will have to show their face in court. For the second time, the state Supreme Court ruled that the owners must appear in court to stop the seizures.

An earlier ruling by the Supreme Court said that to prevent the seizures, the owners must appear in court. Now, for the second time the Supreme Court has made the same ruling. It is a blow to website owners who wished to remain anonymous. In 2008, Governor Steve Beshear attempted to seize 141 website domain names. Immediately, trade groups connected with the Internet gambling industry hired lawyers to fight the seizure. The lawyers attempted to battle the case in court without the owners of the sites present.

In Thursday's ruling, the Supreme Court called into question whether some of the owners of the websites actually owned the domain names that went along with the sites. That is a piece to the case that will have to be sorted out as the two sides continue to battle.

Kentucky racetracks have been experiencing tough economic times in the past several years and Beshear saw the domain seizures as a way to restrict Kentucky residents from accessing the sites. The idea was that the residents would then start spending their gambling money at the tracks. The plan backfired, however, when a Circuit Court ruled that the seizures were not legal. Governor Beshear has appealed that ruling to the Supreme Court, and the Court has yet to rule on the issue. The next step in the process will be for the owners of the sites to come forward to protect the domain names from being seized. It is not yet known if and when that will occur.

http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/gambling-law/online_gambling_domain_owners_must_show_up_in_kentucky_court_55761.html

Louisiana Casino Application Deadline Passes With Four Applicants

September 25, 2010 – CasinoGamblingWeb.com

The deadline to place applications for the final gaming license available in Louisiana came and went on Thursday (September 23). By the end of the day, four applicants had filed the necessary paperwork and one will become the recipient of the gaming license.

Pinnacle Entertainment returned the gaming license in April, and that opened the door for the Louisiana Gaming Control Board to put it up for other applicants. When issued, it will bring the total number of licenses in the state to fifteen. The casino industry all across the US has struggled in recent years, with the economic recession being a major factor. Even though the recession has now been pronounced over, casinos have had a hard time gaining their customers back. Thousands of people across the US are still unemployed, leading to lower gambling spending habits.

Pinnacle Entertainment had plans of bringing their second casino to Louisiana, in Lake Charles, but they decided against moving forward with the project. Thursday, four applicants put their name in the hat for the Gaming Control Board to review. Lake Charles pulls many gamblers from Texas, and that is attractive to three of the four applicants.

Penn National Gaming is one of the developers that has been attempting to expand their current US casino business. The company is proposing a casino near Harvey. If approved, this plan would be a blow to Lake Charles. The three other applicants, Creative Casinos, Tomorrows Investors, and St. Gabriel Downs, all are proposing casinos in Lake Charles. Tomorrows Investors would like to place their casino on the Calcasieu River. Creative Casinos and St. Gabriel Downs would attempt to have their casinos placed at the Port of Lake Charles. The Pinnacle entertainment license was the first of two the company has given back this year. In July, Pinnacle forfeited their license from the President Casino in Missouri.

http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/casino-gambling/louisiana_casino_application_deadline_passes_with_four_applicants_55762.html

Jockey Mark Anthony Villa dies in Zia Park spill

September 25, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

Jockey Mark Anthony Villa, 44, died as a result of a spill in the seventh race at Zia Park on Saturday, according to a spokesperson for the Hobbs, N.M. track.

Villa's mount, Separate Money, broke down just after finishing second in the trial race for the Hobbs America Quarter Horse Futurity and the rider was thrown to the ground. Villa was taken to nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

A memorial service for Villa was held Sunday morning at Zia Park. His burial will be in Phoenix at a yet to be determined date. Villa is survived by his wife, Krystal, and a son and daughter who are twins. They are 6.

Villa began riding in 1983. He won 1,726 races from 13,843 starts, for mount earnings of \$17,360,253. Of his wins, 1,076 were with Thoroughbreds, and 648 with Quarter Horses. He was the fifth leading rider last year at Zia Park and second in the Thoroughbred standings this past summer at Ruidoso Downs.

Among his biggest wins were the Grade 1 Ruidoso Quarter Horse Derby in 2009 with eventual champion Time For a Cigar.

<http://www.drf.com/news/jockey-mark-anthony-villa-dies-zia-park-spill>

New Jersey Control Commission Fines AC Casino For Underage Gambling

September 22, 2010 – CasinoGamblingWeb.com

The New Jersey Casino Control Commission understands the troubles that Atlantic City casinos have been experiencing for the past couple of years. That does not mean, however, that they will allow the casinos to break the rules.

On Wednesday, the Control Commission sent their latest message to AC casinos in regards to underage gambling. The Borgata was fined \$40,000 for allowing underage gambling. This was not the first time that the Borgata has had problems with this issue.

Already, three regulatory complaints have been filed against the Borgata. Although the casino has been involved with underage gambling before, the Commission was quick to point out that an effort has been made to keep young gamblers from being on the casino floor.

Two incidents caused the latest fine for Borgata, and both occurred in February. A twenty year old woman played at the blackjack table for more than three hours before being caught when she switched tables. In the other instance, an eighteen year old male bought in for \$60 on the roulette table and won \$100. Unfortunately for the underage gambler, he was busted while cashing out.

"These casinos are looking for action anywhere they can find it, but they still do not allow underage gambling on a normal basis," said Gaming Analyst Brad Dawkins. "In most cases, a couple of underage gamblers just slip through the cracks in security, and when they are caught, the casino pays the price."

The AC casino industry is at its lowest point in its history. Pennsylvania and other Northeastern casinos have been gaining ground on New Jersey in terms of gaming revenue, while AC casinos continue to watch revenue drop in double digits percentages on a monthly basis.

<http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/gambling-law/new-jersey-control-commission-fines-ac-casino-for-underage-gambling-55754.html>

Washington High Court Upholds State Ban On Internet Poker, Online Gambling

September 23, 2010 - Seattle Post Intelligencer

The state ban on Internet gambling does not violate the U.S. Constitution, the Washington Supreme Court ruled unanimously in a decision released Thursday (September 23) morning.

Hearing a lawsuit by a Washington online poker player, the state's high court heard argument that the Legislature violated the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution when it enacted a ban on Internet gambling. Opponents of the ban have said they will take the case to the federal courts, and pursue it to the U.S. Supreme Court if possible.

Writing for the court, Justice Richard B. Sanders disagreed, finding that the Legislature did not overreach in restricting online gambling. The Legislature, Sanders wrote, "balanced public policy concerns and determined the interests of Washington are best served by banning Internet gambling."

In the opinion, Sanders noted that the court's ruling ought not be taken as an endorsement of the Legislature's decision to implement the ban, but instead seen as an endorsement of the Legislature's ability to do so.

"The Legislature chose the advantages and disadvantages of a ban over the advantages and disadvantages of regulation," Sanders said in the opinion. "The evidence is not conclusive. Many may disagree with the outcome. But the court has no authority to replace the Legislature's choice with its own."

The court's ruling bolsters the state ban, which was made law in 2006 following a boom in Internet poker.

Renton-based attorney and avid poker player Lee Rousso filed the lawsuit the following year. Rousso and his supporters claimed the state law violated the U.S. Constitution's commerce clause, which holds that interstate and international commerce is largely beyond the reach of state law. The plaintiffs also claimed the state law placed in-state businesses at an unfair advantage.

Rousso expressed his disappointment in the ruling through a statement issued by the Poker Players Alliance. "Unfortunately, the court has upheld an unpopular prohibition," Rousso said in a statement. "Poker players in this state need to make their voices heard. Now more than ever we need to rally together to fight this outrageous law. I hope the poker community will stand with me as I appeal this decision to the U.S. Supreme Court."

Former U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a New York Republican and chairman of the Poker Players Alliance, reiterated Rousso's pledge to pursue the complaint in federal court. Calling the state law "ridiculous," D'Amato asserted that the prohibition makes criminals of poker fans who play online. He said the organization and others will continue to fight the ban.

Whether or not that claim was correct, Sanders found the allegation to have no bearing on the question before the court. In-state and out-of-state businesses, the high court found, face the same prohibition under the law. Thursday's decision follows another unanimous state Supreme Court ruling against gambling interests filed earlier this month. In that case, the high court found that the Internet gaming site Betcha.com violates the Washington ban. The owners of the company had claimed they were not involved in "professional gambling" because they did not facilitate payment of wagers made through the site.

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/427242_poker23.html

Internet Gambling Plan Takes Hit In California With Senator Arrest

September 19, 2010 – CasinoGamblingWeb.com

State Senator Rod White has been one of the lawmakers that has been pushing Internet gambling regulations when it comes to online poker. Senator White has led the charge to regulate the industry in California, but now it appears those plans may be put on hold. White has been indicted on eight counts, all having to do with his political career. In 2007, White is accused of changing his voter registration to run for the legislature. Perjury, voter fraud, and false declaration of candidacy are among the charges brought against the senator.

Senate bill 1485 was introduced by Wright and support was growing for the legislation that would have brought regulated online poker to California. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has been a proponent of expanded gambling in the state, approving several compacts with American Indian tribes for additional casinos. California has been a pioneer in a gambling industry that is now thriving throughout the US. Las Vegas and Atlantic City were once considered untouchable within the casino industry, but in recent years, California, Pennsylvania, and Florida have all expanded their gaming industries and are in position to topple New Jersey and Nevada.

As for Senator White, he pleaded not guilty on Thursday to the counts against him. His Senate seat for now may be safe, with a two-thirds vote needed to remove him from office. That will likely not happen with the way the legislature is currently comprised.

The outcome of the case, however, could change the future of Senate bill 1485 in California. With his attention on the upcoming legal battle, White will have to work overtime to ensure the bill receives the proper push that is needed to get it through the legislature, possibly even later this year.

<http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/online-poker/internet-gambling-plan-takes-hit-in-california-with-senator-arrest-55735.html>

Edmonton Students May Soon Suffer After Anti-Gambling Edict

September 18, 2010 – CasinoGamblingWeb.com

Several schools in Edmonton are soon going to be dealing with cuts to their educational programs. This comes after Archbishop Richard Smith issued an order that stops Catholic parishes and organizations from accepting money derived from gambling. The order sent shock waves throughout Edmonton where schools use money from charity casino events to fund new computers and other supplies that are needed within the school. The ban not only applies to the charity gambling, but also prevents parishes from applying for grants from the Alberta Lottery Fund.

"This edict could not have come at a worse time for the parents and children in Edmonton," said Claire Belttten. "This money has been raised in legal ways, and it is used for very valuable teaching tools. Without the money from the gambling, it is going to be extremely difficult to continue to offer students what they are offered today."

The ban goes into effect on October 1st, meaning that this year's students may be affected. The archbishop explained that profiting from an immoral activity is not in the best interest of the church. The archdiocese also referred to the possible social problems that could arise from gambling. The move comes at a time when most of Canada is expanding their gambling options. Several provinces have started the process of regulating online gambling. British Columbia has already launched their online casino, PlayNow.com. Other territories will do the same in the next couple of years.

All across the world, casino gambling is being used as a source of revenue for education systems. In the US, lottery and casino gambling revenue goes towards college scholarships, and general education funds. Casino gambling is being expanded in the US at the most rapid rate in the country's history.

<http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/gambling-law/edmonton-students-may-soon-suffer-after-anti-gambling-edict-55733.html>

British Government To Accept Bids For The Tote This Fall

September 15, 2010 – Thoroughbred Times

The British government plans to take bids on the Tote in late fall, the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport announced on Wednesday. A previous attempt to sell the state-owned bookmaker, which invests a portion of its profits back into racing, was canceled in October 2008 due to unsuitable market conditions. Department officials expect to furnish lawmakers and racing stakeholders with an update on the proposed sale in early 2011.

John Penrose, the minister for tourism and heritage, said in a written statement to Parliament: "The government is now preparing to launch an open market process in the late autumn in which it will invite proposals from interested parties," England's Press Association reports. "This process will be open to all organizations who have an interest in the Tote, and the government expects to be in a position to update the House early in the New Year."

Nic Coward of the British Horseracing Authority said the statement was a welcome one. "Racing, through the British Horseracing Authority, has been in close dialogue with government about resolving the future of the Tote for a number of months," Coward said. "A creative and modern approach is needed. We look forward to continuing this constructive process, with the interests of racing at its heart, as has been confirmed by the chancellor, the secretary of state, and the minister in today's statement, which we welcome."

Proposals will be accepted from both private bidders and other parties, the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport said. One of the principal wagering organizations in Britain, the Tote owns more than 500 betting shops, employs more than 3,500 workers, and has a major presence at all 60 racecourses.

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/international-news/2010/September/15/British-government-to-accept-bids-for-the-Tote-this-fall.aspx>

Gaming Control Board Awards 3 Law Enforcement Grants to Thwart Illegal Gambling in PA

September 17, 2010 – PRNewswire.com

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board on Thursday approved three grant requests totaling \$315,760 to law enforcement agencies to fund programs designed to thwart illegal gambling in the Commonwealth.

These were the first awards approved by the Board under the Local Law Enforcement Grant Program since the program was amended by the state legislature in January of this year. Under the program, the PGCB is authorized to award up to \$2 million annually in grants to local law enforcement agencies and the Pennsylvania State Police for the purpose of investigating, enforcing and preventing unlawful gambling in the Commonwealth.

A maximum award of \$150,000 may be sought by any single local law enforcement agency and a maximum award of \$250,000 may be sought by the State Police. Grant funds may be used for the purpose of attending or conducting education and training events, defraying costs associated with investigations, prevention, deterrence or enforcement of laws related to illegal gambling, or the prosecution of crimes involving illegal gambling. The funding comes from revenues generated from licensed slot machine facilities.

Grants approved were to the:

Swatara Township Police Department in Dauphin County – \$42,400
Borough of Freeland Police Department in Luzerne County – \$23,370
Pennsylvania State Police – \$249,990

"These grants go a long way in helping law enforcement offset the cost of uncovering and investigating illegal gambling operations, and then prosecuting violators," said Gaming Control Board Chairman Greg Fajt. "Most importantly, shutting down operations which contribute no tax revenue to the citizens of the Commonwealth is important in stabilizing and maximizing revenues at the tax-producing Pennsylvania licensed casinos."

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/gaming-control-board-awards-3-law-enforcement-grants-to-thwart-illegal-gambling-in-pa-103128294.html>

Out-of-Competition Testing Set to Begin in KY

September 18, 2010 – The BloodHorse

Regulators in Kentucky are planning to begin out-of-competition testing within the next seven to 10 days after Gov. Steve Beshear signed the new regulation to take effect on an emergency basis.

Acting on a request from the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission that it be implemented on an emergency basis so it would be in place in advance of the Nov. 5-6 Breeders' Cup World Championships at Churchill Downs, the regulation took effect Sept. 15. The new regulation will be effective for six months under the emergency provision. During that time, the regulation will go through a legislative vetting process, including public hearings, before a final regulation is adopted. "Sampling and testing will be initiated, likely within the next week to 10 days," said Dr. Mary Scollay-Ward, equine medical director for Kentucky.

The regulation will allow 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 that 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 regulations 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.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/58924/out-of-competition-testing-set-to-begin-in-ky>

Three New York Trainers Fined For Herbal Medicine Violation

September 26, 2010 – The Daily Racing Form

Three trainers were fined \$500 and suspended seven days by the New York stewards for giving their horses herbal medications the day they were to race, which necessitated all three being scratched from their respective races. However, none of the trainers will serve any of the days provided they don't commit another medication violation in New York during the remainder of 2010.

Trainers Faustino Ramos, Chris Englehart, and Michelle Sharp were each fined \$500 for giving their horses either Air Power or Wind-Aid - classified by the stewards as similar to cough medicine despite containing all natural ingredients - on the day their horses were to race at Belmont. After being observed by New York Racing Association security personnel, the horses were scratched by the stewards. Ramos trained Banking Holiday, who was scratched out of the 10th race on Sept. 12. Englehart trained Smokin Hero, scratched from the fifth race on Sept. 16; Sharp was the trainer of Twiceasbeautiful, scratched out of the eighth race on Sept. 16.

A fourth trainer, Stanley Hough, could face the same penalty after his horse, Adios Charlie, was scratched from the seventh race on Sept. 18 for receiving an herbal medication. His case is still being reviewed. The specific rule in question is 4043.2 which only allow antibiotics, vitamins, electrolytes and other food supplements - provided they do not exhibit drug-like actions or properties - to be given orally on race-day. The stewards have previously said that Air Power and Wind-Aid - because they are described as similar to cough medicine - exhibit drug-like properties.

<http://www.drform.com/news/three-new-york-trainers-fined-herbal-medicine-violation>

Tioga Shows Increase In Live And Export Handle

September 15, 2010 – HarnessRacing.com

Tioga Downs wrapped up its 2010 racing season as the curtain fell on Saturday night, Sept. 11, in front of a house of fans and horsemen. Tioga made headlines earlier in the year when takeout rates were lowered to state minimums for the 2010 race meet, and as the final numbers came in the results were promising. In a time when growth in business is hard to come by, Tioga Downs was up in live handle 4.1 percent over 2009, and was also up in export by 8.7 percent over the previous year.

"To be up in handle in both categories during this time in the economy and show over an eight-percent jump in export is really promising. We have to thank HANA (Horseplayers Association of North America) for their support during our takeout rate initiative this year, and everyone who supported it by betting on the Tioga product," said Jason M. Settlemoir, vice president of racing and simulcast.

Tioga Downs also saw 13 track records take new occupants during 2010, which also featured two world records on one day. Manningly and Jeff Gregory set a world record for 4-year-old trotting stallions on a five-eighths mile track in 1:52.3, with Temple Of Doom and David Miller only two races later setting another world record for 3-year-old trotting colts on a five-eighths mile track in 1:52.4. The two overall track records got taken down this year: Manning's 1:52.3 world record established a new overall track record on the trot, while Shark Gesture's win in the inaugural Bettor's Delight Open Pace in 1:48.3 destroyed the previous all-age track record on the pace.

As always, the 2010 Drivers' Championship was the highlight of the 2010 race season with the fourth edition of the event being captured by Hall of Famer Ron Pierce. It was the fourth straight year that Pierce participated in the event, and after last year's loss in the final race to finish second, Pierce captured victory and the \$25,000 first prize in 2010.

New to the 2010 race season was a year-long handicapping contest that was updated on the Tioga Downs website each week dubbed the "Pens vs. Microchip" in which a handicapping software system "Chatsworth Consortium" designed by Trackmaster faced off against a few human handicappers and the morning line. When the contest came to a close the "Chatsworth Consortium" which was offered for free all year long at Tioga came out on top with an astonishing 16 percent ROI, followed by Bobby Z with four percent ROI, Mel with a minus-five percent ROI, and rounding out was Ray's Robot with a minus-nine percent ROI.

As in past years, Tioga Downs once again pushed promotions and giveaways to fuel attendance during the 58-day race meet. Opening day was held on Kentucky Derby Day to create a full day event for the Southern Tier fans, while closing night was in co-ordination with the 2010 Horseplay Car Giveaway and \$20,000 Mystery Voucher Giveaway.

"We push towards on-track attendance and handle here at Tioga and try to drive our customers on track with promotions every day, and giveaways a few times a month. Customers want to feel like they are ahead when they walk in the door, and when they can get into drawings and promotions everyday to win prizes it keeps them coming back and looking forward to their next visit," said Settlemoir. (Tioga Downs)

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

Sam Houston To Start Shorter Thoroughbred Meet In January

September 14, 2010 – Thoroughbred Times

Sam Houston Race Park will open a 27-day Thoroughbred meeting on January 21, as the state's horsemen and major tracks attempt a new approach in 2011. In racing about half the dates as previous meetings, the track said it will increase average daily purses, although figures will be released later. Similar to schedules this year at Monmouth Park in New Jersey and Ellis Park in Kentucky, Sam Houston will concentrate its racing on weekends, with a Friday through Monday schedule through March 7. A 30-day Quarter Horse meeting begins March 11.

"We are thrilled about this new structure for our live racing seasons," said Sam Houston Race Park President Andrea Young. "We believe the creation of a shorter Thoroughbred meet with a stronger overall purse structure will lead to

substantial increases in both interest and attendance this season. One of our goals is to create a sense of urgency while also building bigger and stronger races for our horsemen as well as our racing fans. We are looking forward to 2011.”

Sam Houston had been scheduled to start racing in November for a meet that typically has ended in early April and has usually offered about 60 racing days. But, without purse supplements from added gaming, a luxury offered in surrounding states such as Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico; Texas racing has struggled. In August, Sam Houston said it was considering not offering its usual Thoroughbred meeting. That proposal called for a possible mixed-breed meet in the summer with limited Thoroughbred racing. Most of the state’s major Thoroughbred racing would have shifted to Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie near Dallas under that plan.

Texas tracks, breed and horsemen’s organizations, and the Texas Racing Commission worked to come up with a plan that emphasizes weekend dates. Retama Park is expected to offer live Thoroughbred dates on Thursdays through Saturdays from September 1 through October 15. Lone Star Park will conduct 52 dates from April 14 through July 10, racing four days a week, Thursday through Sunday. The Texas Racing Commission approved the plan Tuesday (September 14).

“We wish to thank the Texas Horsemen’s Partnership as well as the various breed registries for their hard work during the process of allocating race dates this year. It is no secret that this is a difficult time for racing fans in Texas,” Young said. “Texas race tracks and horsemen are facing intense competition from our surrounding states, all of which offer purses supplemented by slot machines at their race tracks. We feel the way we have structured this meet will give us the best shot at survival in the short term.”

<http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com/racing-news/2010/September/14/Sam-Houston-to-start-shorter-Thoroughbred-meet-in-January.aspx>

Texas Regulators To Reconsider Proposed Equine Dentist Rule

September 14, 2010 – The BloodHorse

The Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners will reconsider a proposed **rule that would prohibit** so-called "lay equine dentists" in that state from using motorized or air-powered files to float horses' teeth without the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

General Council Nicole Oria said the board voted to reconsider the proposed rule Sept. 10 because veterinarians and non-veterinarian equine dentists strongly opposed it. "Veterinarians opposed the rule because they believe it allows non-veterinarian equine dentists to do too much," Oria said. "The dentists opposed it because they say it would restrict them in their work."

Teeth floating is the filing or cutting of long points on a horse's teeth. Traditionally, both veterinarian and non-veterinarian equine dentists use non-mechanized handheld rasps to perform the procedure. The rule allows non-veterinarian tooth floaters to use manual rasps and files in their work. Veterinarians argue that the motorized equipment does not eliminate the need for some horses to be sedated during tooth floating procedures. Sedation by an unlicensed veterinarian dentist is illegal in Texas.

Texas equine dentist Carl Mitz, a non-veterinarian who helps manufacturers develop the power-operated tools and instructs others, including veterinarians, in their use, said such tools facilitate and expedite the procedure, generally eliminating the need to sedate horses. Oria said the board's rules committee will offer recommendations about the rule before the full board meets again in December.

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/58888/texas-regulators-to-reconsider-proposed-equine-dentist-rule>

DRA signs 5-year greyhound contract

September 22, 2010 - Dubuque Telegraph Herald

The Dubuque Racing Association and the Iowa Gaming Association have inked a five-year contract to continue greyhound racing in Dubuque. The contract, announced Tuesday at the DRA board meeting, was the result of some "tough negotiation," according to Jesús Aviles, president and CEO of Mystique Casino and Dubuque Greyhound Park. The DRA is the nonprofit license holder for the racetrack casino.

Aviles said the parties were able to find "middle ground" in establishing the contract. In exchange for the length of the contract, the contributions the casino makes to greyhound purses will be correlated to the success of the casino operation as a whole. "It's good to put everything to rest," Aviles said after Tuesday's meeting, noting the concern among those who work in the industry over efforts to end greyhound racing due to declining participation and funds.

Harrah's Casinos offered to pay \$7 million over seven years for the state to shut down greyhound racing by July 1 -- a plan that included \$3 million per year from the DRA -- but the bill didn't make it out of committee. Aviles said the contract would be discontinued should the state move to end greyhound racing in the coming years.

There is a no-lobbying clause in the contract, but it expires after three years. The DRA board unanimously approved the contract.

August was a poor month in terms of business levels for the racetrack casino, a decline felt industrywide, Aviles said. "It's been a tough month for gaming in Dubuque," he said, noting that the only gambling markets with an increase last month were those without any competition. Mystique had \$5.15 million in adjusted gross revenue and an attendance of more than 112,000 last month, down from \$5.76 million and more than 127,000 in July, according to the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission.

Last month's numbers were down from \$5.67 million in adjusted gross revenue and more than 123,000 in attendance in August 2009. At crosstown rival Diamond Jo Casino, adjusted gross revenue was at \$5.68 million and attendance was about 100,000 last month, down from \$6.17 million and about 114,000 in August 2009.

Aviles said Mystique leaders did set a rather aggressive budget for the year, which also factored into last month's less-than-exemplary performance. "Maybe it was a function of the budget, maybe it was a function of the market, but we haven't lived up to the expectations we set for ourselves," Aviles said.

<http://www.thonline.com/article.cfm?id=296439>

Internet Gambling Payment Processor Daniel Tzvetkoff Released on Bail

September 15, 2010 – Poker News Daily

In breaking news from New York, Intabill head Daniel Tzvetkoff has been released on bail, according to the Courier-Mail newspaper in Australia. In April, he was arrested in Las Vegas on charges money laundering, gambling, conspiracy and bank fraud as part of his role with the internet gaming payment processor.

According to the Aussie news outlet, “The young Gold Coast entrepreneur was set free after a closed hearing before a federal magistrate.” He filed a plea in the case in late August in the legal action brought on by the U.S. Attorney’s Office. The news broke on the same day in which former [Full Tilt Poker](#) employee Jason “JDN” Newitt allegedly was subpoenaed to appear the Southern District of New York. The nature of his subpoena is not known, but may be related to his lawsuit against his former employer.

Much of the Southern District’s energy in the internet gambling industry has been focused on payment processors, who provide the financial link between online poker players and online poker sites. Tzvetkoff was originally denied bail in New York, according to the Courier-Mail, because a U.S. judge “feared he had hidden money to finance an escape from the U.S. once free.” The newspaper added that a trial is set for June 2011.

Last year, word broke that Kolyma Corporation AVV had filed a \$52 million lawsuit against Intabill. The total purportedly consisted of \$25 million owed to [Full Tilt](#) and [PokerStars](#) and \$30 million owed to the CEREUS Network sites [UB.com](#) and [Absolute Poker](#). The lawsuit was filed in Australia and, at one point, it was reported that Intabill took in as much as \$1 million per day.

According to a Dow Jones Newswire report in April, rather than report what his financial transactions were for, Tzvetkoff told the bank they represented “repayments of short-term loans, transfer of funds to prepaid debit cards, and e-commerce purchases.” He was rumored to have owned a house in Sin City and was merely visiting. However, the trip and his past transgressions may cost him up to 75 years behind bars. The 27 year-old filed for bankruptcy in January following credit card charge back issues and the deteriorating global economy.

In another development on the legal front, the Courier-Mail notes that Douglas Rennick, a Canadian who ran into legal trouble for his role with the payment processor Account Services, will be sentenced this month. Account Services was linked to both Full Tilt Poker and PokerStars. The U.S. Government seized Account Services’ funds last year and, in July 2009, the company filed a motion for return of property. The [Poker Players Alliance](#) filed an amicus brief in the case, but Rennick was promptly indicted in August of last year.

On Newitt’s rumored appearance in the Southern District of New York on Tuesday, posters on TwoPlusTwo were up in arms as to what the development could mean for the industry. According to TwoPlusTwo poster “Kevmath” and This Week in Poker, Newitt’s presence was due to “miscoded transactions taking place right after the UIGEA.”

Poker Players Alliance New Hampshire State Director Patrick “Skallagrim” Fleming opined on TwoPlusTwo, “This could just be an action against a processor and FTP may not be the target at all. Or they could be trying to tie FTP into some processor’s alleged violations by any number of possible theories of accomplice or conspiracy. Or all my guesses may be wrong.”

There was no mention of a trip to the Southern District on Newitt’s Twitter feed. Tuesday saw him take his car over 5,000 miles on the way home from Chipotle and trade away Arian Foster in fantasy football. Stay tuned to Poker News Daily for the latest legislative and legal headlines.

<http://www.pokernewsdaily.com/internet-gambling-payment-processor-daniel-tzvetkoff-released-on-bail-15506/>

Online Gambling More Popular Than Facebook In The UK

September 14, 2010 – CasinoGamblingWeb.com

The UK has become the model by which other online gambling industries are measured in the past couple of years, and research group Nielsen proved that with research on Monday. Nielsen claims that online gambling was bigger last year in the UK than social media sites such as Facebook.

Nielsen revealed that an additional 3.2 million people went to online gambling sites last year. That represents a forty percent increase over the previous year. Social media sites had an additional 2.2 million people who accessed their sites.

The numbers are not particularly shocking for those within the gaming industry. The UK has established itself as a leader in the online gambling industry. Other countries have followed Britain into the market in recent years, and much of Europe now has regulated Internet gambling, something that could not have been said ten years ago.

Middle aged men drove the spike in numbers, according to Nielsen. Women, however, did represent forty-six percent of online gamblers. Online poker and bingo are two of the most popular games that are enjoyed by British citizens. The poker craze is sweeping not only through Britain but all across the world.

"Online poker sites have experienced a huge increase in customers over the past decade," said Gaming Analyst Steve Schwartz. "Playing poker on the Internet has become even more popular than land-based poker games held at casinos throughout the world. It has become somewhat of a phenomenon."

The US is considered to be the largest online gambling market, but the government in the country has yet to regulate the industry. If lawmakers succeed in changing the current laws regarding online gambling, several companies based in Britain are expected to apply for licenses to operate in the US.

The figures released by Nielsen has caused concern among those opposed to online gambling. The number one fear of the opposition is that Internet gambling sites are too easily accessible, something that is backed up by the numbers in the Nielsen study.

http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/online-casino/online_gambling_more_popular_than_facebook_in_the_uk_55709.html

New Jersey Gaming Summit To Quiz Governor's Key Adviser

September 26, 2010 – Press of Atlantic City

State Democratic legislators will get the chance at the last of three gaming summits this week to finally question Jon Hanson, the head of a governor's advisory commission that proposed bold plans to promote Atlantic City tourism but also called for an end to racetrack subsidies. The reception Hanson receives at the gaming summit held Wednesday by Democratic legislators may depend on the region each panel member represents. The major thrusts of Gov. Chris Christie's proposals on gambling and entertainment in New Jersey have split legislators from the northern and southern areas.

Northern lawmakers with racetracks or horse farms in their districts have strong objections to Hanson's recommendation that New Jersey pull out of state-supported horse racing. Christie also rejected allowing slot machines at the tracks. But state Sen. Jim Whelan, D-Atlantic, said he hopes a formal plan to save racetracks could be proposed Wednesday.

The summit is being held at a site that could be threatened by the racing proposals: Monmouth Park, one of two racetracks run by the state. Racing industry supporters will likely attend in large numbers.

Hanson, who could not attend the Democrats' first two summits, can also expect to be asked about the lack of openness in which his committee conducted its work, legislators said late last week. In July, Christie announced plans for state intervention to better market Atlantic City, to create a private-public partnership in the city and to establish a tourism district around the casinos and marina. Hanson led a five-month commission that made the recommendations. The

Legislature's Democratic majority responded by scheduling three fact-finding summits to formulate responses to Christie's plans, which have largely won support with lawmakers who represent southern New Jersey.

Whelan said he personally spoke to Hanson last week to invite him to attend Wednesday. "I don't think the day is just about whether things get heated," Whelan said. As a prominent supporter of Hanson's recommendations for Atlantic City, Whelan said he has no tough questions for the former head of the state Sports and Exposition Authority. "Other legislators have concerns," he said. "I don't personally."

Several lawmakers listed questions they want Hanson to answer at Wednesday's hearing:

Who met with the advisory commission?

Why didn't the commission hold any public hearings?

Does Hanson believe it's worth sacrificing the estimated \$1 billion-per-year equine industry to save Atlantic City?

Does the opening of SugarHouse Casino in Philadelphia last week, and the approval of slot machine-style gaming at Aqueduct in New York, change his mind about challenges to Atlantic City being surmountable?

Why did the report not address the possibility of online-gaming portals raising revenue to assist casinos?

Legislators have raised concerns about the commission's transparency. The Press of Atlantic City reported in August that the advisers kept no meeting minutes that would indicate who the members met with. Hanson said Thursday he intends to address that issue. "I expect to go into those details, yes, if I'm asked," he said. So far, certain gaming industry representatives and consultants have confirmed they gave advice to the commission, but Hanson said he would try to present a more complete picture.

For some lawmakers, the issue of secrecy remains front and center, as they try to understand what shaped the governor's policy proposals. Among them is Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver, D-Essex, Passaic. "As every member of the Legislature should feel, I want to hear how Mr. Hanson devised such a significant report without any public meetings and a complete lack of transparency that leaves us without any insight into how he arrived at his conclusions," she said Thursday. "This industry is so important to New Jersey — and the lack of public accounting on how this report on its fate was put together, must come to an end at Wednesday's meeting."

Hanson was unable to attend two previous all-Democratic summits — on Aug. 6 and Sept. 10. In his absence, some lawmakers complained the report's authors had not drawn members an adequate picture of the report's implications. "I find it insulting, with everyone involved in these industries, including Atlantic City, that we have had no one from the Hanson commission to come explain this to us," Assemblyman Ralph Caputo, D-Essex, said at the second all-day summit, held at the Meadowlands.

As government leaders continue to strategize about revitalizing Atlantic City's gaming industry, state officials are involved in discussions about what to do with the city government. The Department of Community Affairs recently drafted an agreement that would allow the state to take over management of the city's finances after the state rejected city officials' request to exceed annual property tax collection limits by \$9.9 million.

Meanwhile, Republicans have not yet released draft legislation to create the new tourism district. One Democrat, Sen. Jeff Van Drew, Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic, introduced a bill two weeks ago that would allow for a joint task force of state troopers and city police to run security in that district. Van Drew, a member of the summit panel, has welcomed Christie's proposals, but said he introduced the bill ahead of Christie to prompt serious discussion about Boardwalk security.

Beside the chance to quiz Hanson, Whelan, who co-chairs the summit, said he expected Wednesday to bring progress on a written plan for making horse-racing work without state subsidy and without the promise of having slot machines at racetracks, two points on which Christie and southern New Jersey Democrats agree. State Sen. Ray Lesniak, D-Union, said he would have to miss the summit, but wanted Hanson to explain why the advisory report and the earlier transition report for Christie, which Hanson helped craft, did not advocate for legalizing online gaming in New Jersey — a goal Lesniak has been pursuing through federal courts. "Aren't we meant to be trying to find every avenue for revenue?" Lesniak asked. "That's my question."

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/top_three/article_8de26274-c9d6-11df-9f95-001cc4c03286.html



RCI Would Like To Thank Our 2010 Associate Members

2010 Associate Members

AQHA

AmWest Entertainment

Japan Racing Association

Las Vegas Dissemination Company

Mountaineer Park

National HBPA

NTRA

Oak Tree

Jockey Club

USTA