



DTHA

Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Journal

Published for the members of the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

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Backstretch news update; Opening Day April 24, 2004

I would like to welcome back those who are returning and extend a warm greeting to the new faces on the backside this year. For those returning, the barn area now has six new bunkhouses ready for occupancy and the barns, horsepaths and ditches have been renovated. Brett Aanerud, track superintendent, and his crew worked all winter clearing ditches and water run-off areas in hopes of cutting down on the mosquito population. The main track is in great shape and he will be adding more material in the next few weeks. Thanks to the maintenance crew for all the hard work they accomplished throughout the cold winter months. It is greatly appreciated, but often overlooked.

There is such a strong perception that drugs run rampant at Delaware Park, and no one from our Board, the Stewards or the Racing Commission chooses to do anything about it. I am very happy to report that all of that is about to change. On March 23, 2004 at the Delaware Racing Commission meeting, Dr George Maylin from Cornell University gave a presentation on Erythropoietin, commonly known as EPO. After the presentation, the commissioners unanimously passed a rule that would disqualify any horse from racing if it tests positive for EPO. Along with this rule, a change will also be made for claimed horses. New claim slips are being made to allow any owner or trainer the option to have a claimed horse tested for either regular lab tests or EPO. This will enable the new owner the right of refusal if the horse tests positive for a prohibited substance, an illegal level of a permitted medication, or if a blood sample exhibits a positive response to the EPO antibody test. If there is a finding of the EPO antibody, the horse will be placed on the veterinarian's list, and not permitted to enter a race until the owner or trainer, at their expense, provides proof of a negative EPO antibody test from a laboratory approved by the Commission. This new rule will go into effect beginning May 11, 2004.

As many of you already know, John W. Rooney (see In Memoriam) a longtime employee of Delaware Park passed away in January. The John W. Rooney Stake, formerly known, as the New Castle Handicap, will be run on June 5,

2004. The stake is for fillies and mares and is 1m 1/8 on the turf with a purse of \$100,000.

Also, this year, the Delaware Oaks has been upgraded from Grade III to Grade II and will be run on July 17 for 3-year-old fillies, at 1m 1/16 with a purse of \$500,000. The next day, July 18, the Grade II Delaware Handicap will be run for older fillies and mares, at 1m 1/4 with a purse of \$750,000.

This year we have a new stall superintendent. Al Jordan, who worked as an assistant starter on the starting gate, has replaced Linda Clevenger. Al can be reached at ext. 7282.

The Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program continues to grow. We have 64 three year olds and 142 two year olds eligible to participate this year. Also Delaware Certified horses that race will be more easily recognized as they will be sporting saddle towels with the Delaware Certified logo on them. For more information regarding this program, or if you would like to certify your weanling or yearling, please contact Lynda Furlong at (302) 994-2521, ext. 7289 or (304) 994-2398.

As a general reminder, the Horsemen's Office is open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Our office is located next to the Tack Shop across from the security gate. Robin Metz, our Executive Director, and Kim Rennison, Program Coordinator, are on hand for all your horsemen's needs.

Lynda Furlong, Program Administrator and DCTP Coordinator, along with Pete Lizarzaburu, Backstretch Social Program Coordinator, are located next to the Day Room, which is directly across from the Horsemen's Office.

Lynda is available for all your Assistance Fund needs, Day Care program and the DCTP and can be reached at ext. 7289. Pete plans many backside activities, including church services, day trips as well as weekly scheduled trips to local shopping areas. Pete can be reached at ext. 7285.



Bessie Gruwell
DTHA President



After Hours

Play...Pray...Travel Away

Welcome back to Delaware Park for the 2004 meet. I hope that all of you take the time to check out the variety of programs and activities that the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has to offer.

What follows is a sampling of special events for this year.

Memorial Day Picnic: Celebrate the official start of summer at our Memorial Day Picnic held at Delcastle Park on Monday, May 31st. Transportation will be provided.

Horsemen's B-B-Q's: The DTHA will host BBQ's in the backstretch recreation area free of charge three times per year. Dates to be announced.

Cow Town Rodeo and flea market: Group rate tickets will be available for purchase, transportation will be provided at no charge. The rodeo runs from May 24th through September 27th.

Six Flags Great Adventure: There will be trips scheduled throughout the summer at a cost of \$30 per person and includes admission, meal and transportation. If you are interested in going on your own, tickets can be used any day throughout the season. Please see me if you are interested in purchasing tickets.

Paddock Party: A fun end of the year event featuring great food, good music, contests, and games for young and old, all at no charge to licensed trainers and their backstretch employees and their families.

President's Report continued from page 1

Wes Jones is our on-site counselor. Wes can assist with drug, alcohol and family support. His office is above the Horsemen's Office and he can be reached at ext. 6532 or (302) 383-7233.

Also housed in the Day Room are a Laundromat, Backstretch Boutique and Medical Clinic. The clinic is open to licensed backside personnel and their families. The hours will be posted on the clinic door and in the Horsemen's Office.

Sign ups for the Defined Contribution Plan for Delaware Park backstretch employees will be held in June. See the article in this issue for further details.

The DTHA office will host our annual Open House on May 8, 2004. Please stop by for light refreshments and a welcome gift.

Mark your calendar for opening day, April 24. See you at the races!

Bessie



Pete Lizarzaburu

Other fun activities held throughout the year are:

Bowling League: This will be held at Pleasant Hill Lanes located at 1001 W. Newport Pike in Newport. It is scheduled to begin on May 27th and will run for 12 weeks at a cost of \$9 per player.

Volleyball Tournament: This is scheduled to begin around mid June. Stay tuned for more details.

Religious Services

All Nations Fellowship meets at the Stanton Middle School on Sundays.

4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Worship Service

5 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mealtime (no charge for food)

6 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. English Classes for Immigrants

Catholic Mass is held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Day Room.

Shopping Shuttle

Thursdays – Pike Creek Shopping Center 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Saturdays – First State Plaza every 1/2 hour starting at 6 p.m.

Mattresses will be provided for anyone living in a bunkhouse. Please contact me at ext. 7285 if you need mattresses for your employees living on the grounds.

Pete

In Memoriam

John Rooney, who retired in 2001 as Delaware Park's vice president of finance died at his home in January. He was 78. John Rooney's 44-year career led to him being known as "Mr. Delaware Park". Rooney also worked as treasurer, controller, vice president of racing and track steward. He was an avid racing fan and often was seen at Delaware Park after his retirement watching live or simulcast racing.



In memory of Mr. Rooney, the New Castle Handicap has been renamed the John W. Rooney Stake.



Bonus Money Awaits More Delaware Certified Horses!

Horsemen know when spring has arrived! Delaware Park is about to open and we are excited about that "special" two year old. Some of us may even be eyeing a yearling or new weanling with hope and anticipation. This is the time of year to think about getting your young stock Delaware Certified so that they can earn additional income at Delaware's racing meet.

This year a total of 206 Delaware Certified horses are eligible to compete. There are 64 three year olds and 142 two year olds. When they race at Delaware Park, these horses can earn a 10% purse enhancement for their owner and a 10% purse enhancement for their certifier. The certifier is the person who owned them at the time they were on a Delaware facility and paid to register them. If the owner and certifier are the same person when the horse races, this is a total of 20% additional earnings if the horse finishes first, second or third in any race other than a stake.

This year, Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program (DCTP) horses can be easily recognized as they will be wearing saddle cloths with the DCTP logo, which can also be seen in the program.

There are a total of 83 yearlings enrolled now. You still have time to make your yearlings and weanlings eligible for these purse enhancements.

To become certified, a thoroughbred must spend a minimum of 90 consecutive days, subject to verification, on a Delaware farm or training facility prior to March 31 of its two-year-old year. Lynda Furlong administers this program and can send you a list of Delaware farms that are accepting weanlings and yearlings. Now would be a good time to call some of the farm managers to see what facilities are available. Lynda can be reached at (302) 994-2521 ext. 7289 or (302) 994-2398.

Once you have found a farm that meets your needs, you can start your application process. Move your youngster onto a Delaware farm or training facility and submit a Delaware Certified Thoroughbred application form to the DCTP office within ten (10) days of the thoroughbred's arrival. The days will NOT count until all paperwork is submitted. This includes a copy of the foal papers or four pictures (as required by the Jockey Club), a completed W9 as well as a one-time registration fee of \$75 for weanlings



and \$150 for yearlings.

A DCTP representative will visit the Delaware facility to validate the residency requirement. Once the ninety (90) days are validated, the horse will be issued a Delaware Certified Thoroughbred certificate and be eligible for the purse enhancements at Delaware Park.

In 2003, a total of \$27,919 was awarded by the DCTP. There were seven wins, three seconds and two thirds. With triple the number of horses eligible to run this year and one third of those horses being three year olds, it is a certainty that quite a few Delaware Certified horses will be receiving extra bonuses this year. Watch this newsletter for updates regarding the DCTP and its winners and runners.

Backstretch Employee Assistance Program

I would like to welcome everyone back to Delaware Park and to take this opportunity to let everyone know of some positive changes for the 2004 meet. This will be the first year that we will be offering substance free housing for its backstretch employees.



G. Wesley Jones, MSW

Also, Pete Lizarzaburu and I hope to have "Movie" night every Wednesday in the Backstretch Café. Stay tuned for more information regarding "Movie" night.

We are also in the planning stages for the 2nd annual Horsemen's Classic Charity Golf event. If anyone is interested in joining our golf committee, please contact me as soon as possible.

My schedule for spring will be as follows:

Tuesday	6 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Wednesday	2 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Thursday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday	6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

On Saturday, Sunday and Monday I will not have regular scheduled hours, but as always, I can adjust my schedule to meet with anyone on these days. For more information about any of my services including drug, alcohol and family support, please call me at (302) 994-2521 ext. 6532 or (302) 383-7233. My office is located in the Horsemen's Office

Editor's Note

The Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Journal is published monthly. Members are invited to submit suggestions for future articles and letters to the editor. Contact Robin Metz, Executive Director, at (302)994-2521 ext. 284; Fax (302) 994-3392.

Wes



From the Executive Director's Desk

Simulcast Piracy, Rebating Practices Discussed At THA Meeting

The Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, comprised of horsemen's groups in Maryland, Delaware, New York, New Jersey and Illinois, met on March 12th to elect officers and discuss industry issues.

The group listened to a presentation by Drew Couto, Executive Director of Thoroughbred Owners of California, regarding declining purses due in part to piracy of simulcast signals and rebating practices. He explained that rebating, signal piracy and the resulting "leakage" in revenues/purses from the licensed U.S. pari-mutuel system has been the subject of study for his group as well as for the NTRA for at least the past three years.

The issue has now moved to the forefront of the industry's concerns. It is clear that a viable strategy to protect our signal must be developed to strengthen the infrastructure for purses.

Also, Steve Andersen, from NTRA, informed the board of the many discounts available to horsemen through their group-purchasing program. Significant savings on products from John Deere, Sherwin Williams, Dodge, FedEx, Nextel and many others are available.

A display area will be set up in the Horsemen's Office at Delaware Park to better acquaint horsemen with the companies offering discounts.

For more information on these issues, visit www.toconline.com or www.NTRA.com.

University Students Interested In Employment

On March 3, I set-up a booth at the 15th annual Agriculture and Natural Resources CAREER DAY at the University of Delaware. The objective was to let students know of the job opportunities available to them in the racing industry. I was pleasantly surprised by the number of students who stopped by the booth and asked questions about the positions. Many were interested in stable management, equine nutrition as well as in the breeding aspect and the veterinary industry. Many of these students were as interested in serving as interns as much as in jobs with salaries. If you are looking for help at the track or on your farm in the tri-state area, give me a call and I will put your name on the list for the students to call.

Welcome Packets – Make The Most Of Your Stay With Us

I will be visiting the barn area beginning in early April to distribute welcome packets to all of the trainers. They include information on the many FREE programs and services available to trainers, their employees and families. Did you know that we have an on-site Medical Clinic? A Day Care Assistance program? Free shopping shuttles to area stores? DTHA sponsored recreational activi-

ties? Bloodstock Research and Jockey Club Information printouts (small fee applies)? See the brochures for schedules and more information on these programs and a list of Delaware Park policies and procedures. A list of important phone numbers and services provided in the Horsemen's Office is also included. Packets are also available in the Horsemen's Office.



Robin Metz,
Executive Director

How To Reach Us

THE DTHA OFFICE IS OPEN EVERYDAY FROM 8 A.M. UNTIL 2 P.M. YOU MAY CALL EXTENSION 7284

REMINDER – ALL DELAWARE PARK EXTENSIONS ARE NOW FOUR DIGITS, YOU MUST DIAL A "7" BEFORE MOST OF THE OLD THREE-DIGIT EXTENSION NUMBERS.

EPA Guidelines For Large Animal Feeding Facility

Delaware Park has recently been classified as a large animal feeding facility. We are currently the only one in the State of Delaware. Due to the new status of our facility, it is necessary to require strict adherence to EPA guidelines concerning contamination of ground water and streams. A complete policy statement is included in your "Welcome Packet". Please read it and make your employees aware of the guidelines. Strict fines may be given to those stables that are not compliant.

DELAWARE THOROUGHBRED RACING COMMISSION NOTES

New Rule Addresses Presence Of EPO

The Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission unanimously passed a new rule regarding EPO in horses racing at Delaware Park. It will take effect on May 11, 2004. It states that horses testing positive for EPO at Delaware Park will be required to present a negative test (at owner/trainer's expense) before the horse is allowed to race. It further allows claimants to have a "special" pulled on a claimed horse. This will be at the claimant's request by marking an area on the claim form before it is submitted and the sample must be drawn immediately following the race. It will be the claimant's responsibility to pay for the test. A list of fees to be charged for testing will be published and available in the Racing Office and also in the Horsemen's Office. Copies of the new rule are available in the Horsemen's Office.



NEW COMPLETE DELAWARE RACING COMMISSION RULE BOOKS WILL BE PRINTED IN MAY AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE HORSEMEN'S OFFICE

Commissioner Resigns

Citing personal reasons, Carolyn Wilson resigned from the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission, effective after the meeting on March 15th. Carolyn was a respected member of the Commission and she will be missed. We wish her the best in future endeavors and hope she will continue to be a racing fan!

George Maylin Addresses Horsemen/Management and Commission on EPO

Dr. George Maylin of Cornell University, one of the world's leading researchers in equine drug testing and veterinary toxicology spoke to a full-house comprised of both thoroughbred and standardbred industry representatives, trainers and commissioners at the March 15th meeting.

Along with Dr. Ken McKeever of Rutgers University in New Jersey, Maylin developed an antibody-antigen reaction test for Erythropoietin, or commonly known as EPO. He explained how the drug works on horses and its long-term effects. He further stated that since NYRA began testing for EPO last year, they have greatly reduced the number of overall positives and the problem has virtually been eliminated at the New York thoroughbred tracks. Interesting to note is that the percentage of thoroughbred positives (.1%) was significantly lower than that of standardbreds (3%).

Delaware Park will continue its testing for EPO this year. See related article for the new Racing Commission rule.

Committee to Oversee The Delaware Jockey Health and Welfare Fund

A committee comprised of Commissioners, members of Delaware Park Management, the DTHA, the Jockey Guild and riders at Delaware Park was formed to oversee the administration of the funds legislated to provide benefits to Delaware Jockeys. The group will meet to discuss current coverage and make recommendations for expanded benefits.

First-Ever Joint RCI and NAPRA Convention

Regulators from both Racing Commissioners International and North American Pari-mutuel Racing Association will meet in New Orleans in early April for a historic/first-ever joint convention. Topics to be discussed include: Gaming at Tracks, Wagering Technology, Equine Drug Testing and Policy, Licensing Process and Jurisdiction Updates. Check the next newsletter for an update.

News & Views

Wellness Works

The Wellness Clinic begins its seventh year of medical service to the backstretch. Dr. Glenn Hamilton will be in charge of this year's service along with a professional staff.

The Wellness Clinic is located next to the Day Room and will open in April with limited hours until the meet opens April 24, 2004. Clinic hours will be posted outside the main door and in the Horsemen's Office.

2004 Meet Directors

Nominations are needed for owners and/or trainers to serve on the DTHA board during the 2004 Delaware Park meet. Nominations will be accepted until Monday, April 26, 2004 to be placed on the ballot. Voting will take place by casting your ballot in the Horsemen's Office from 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2004 until 2:00 p.m., May 2, 2004. The new four meet directors will be announced following the election.

The new directors will attend the monthly board meetings as well as serve on various committees. If you would like to be nominated or would like to nominate someone, please contact the Horsemen's Office at ext. 7284.

DTHA Owner Blanket 2nd Series

The Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association sponsors a weekly overnight race called the DTHA Owner Blanket Series. This is a meet-long competition where points valued at 5,3,2,1 will be awarded to the owners of the first four finishers in the overnight race. At the end of the meet, the accumulating points will be totaled and a prize awarded to the highest score. A "running tally" will be posted in this newsletter.

Groom of the Week

Make sure you and your horse look your best to win the "Groom of the Week" award. The weekly winner is judged for overall appearance and handling of the horse while in the paddock. Each week the winning groom will receive a DTHA tote bag as well as a \$25 gift certificate to the Delaware Park Tack Shop or Gift Shop.

At the end of each month, the four winners names go into a drawing and the lucky one receives a \$100 gift certificate to the Christiana Mall.

Barn of the Month

Every month two awards are given for the "best turned out" barn. A \$250 cash prize is awarded to both the small barn (14 horses and under) and the large barn (15 horses and over).

Barns are chosen for their overall neatness as well as the "extra touches." So grab your pitchfork and flowers and spruce up your barns to win the cash prize!





Delaware
Thoroughbred
Horsemen's Association, Inc.

777 Delaware Park Blvd.
Wilmington, DE 19804

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Welcome Back!

SEE YOU IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE! _____

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE PARTY A SUCCESS!

Despite a late evening legislative session, the DTHA Annual Legislative reception went off without a hitch, complete with live music, great food and fabulous door prizes. Numerous elected officials from the House and Senate, Racing Commission, DTHA and DCTP participants attended the event. The reception provided a great opportunity for the board and Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission members to address issues facing our industry, including updating them on the incredible progress of the Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program (DCTP). Currently over 1,100 acres have been preserved as a direct result of thoroughbred horses raised in Delaware, including some 280 thoroughbreds registered in 2003.



Madeline Locke, seated center, confers with state legislators.

DTHA Defined Contribution Plan for backstretch employees. Plan your retirement now!

This is the second year that backstretch employees can sign up for retirement income. All licensed trainers, assistant trainers, stable foremen, grooms, exercise riders, pony persons and hot walkers are eligible after meeting qualifying criteria. Contact the Horsemen's Office for information regarding the eligibility requirements prior to the sign up dates.

If you did not sign up last year, it's not too late to participate, you can sign up this year. A plan representative will be available for sign up on Tuesday, June 8th and Thursday, June 10th from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Horsemen's Office. You **MUST SIGN UP** on these dates to participate as there will be no late sign up date allowed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 20	DTHA Board Meeting
May 8	Open House
August 6	Paddock Party
September 11	12th Annual Owners Day

DTHA Board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Horsemen's Office.

All owners and trainers are encouraged to attend.

**Note: Your newsletter is now online at:
www.dtha.com.**