May 1 May Be Optimistic, But Gural Hopeful About Reopening

On Tuesday, the Meadowlands announced that it is hopeful that it may be able to resume live racing—without an audience in the grandstand—on May 1.

“Given the current situation the Meadowlands, Tioga Downs and Vernon Downs are doing whatever can be done to look after our employees and be a good neighbor in the community. We also realize the plight of the horsemen that race at our tracks and the anxiety of not knowing what the near future might hold,” the statement said.

Just a few hours after the Meadowlands issued its statement, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy announced he had signed an executive order extending the state’s public health emergency another 30 days. The governor said executive orders expire after 30 days and needed to be renewed, with the new extension through May 9.

Despite the extension of the order by Gov. Murphy, Meadowlands chairman Jeff Gural said he is still hopeful that racing could resume around May 1.

“We know the horsemen have come up with some ideas about how we could race with social distancing, and we know that we would not have the grandstand open for an audience.”

—Jeff Gural

best-case scenario, we could approach the state for permission to race. That is premature as of today (April 8). We haven’t done that yet (ask the state when racing could resume). We know the horsemen have come up with some ideas about how we could race with social distancing, and we know that we would not have the grandstand open for an audience.

“We all recognize that this is a changing situation and we’ll be watching to see what happens,” he added. “We are working to get open, but we have to be safe. We’ve got to adhere to the guidelines set forth by Governors Murphy and (New York Gov.) Cuomo and follow their direction.”

What is the “best case” for the COVID-19 outbreak to tail off in New Jersey and the curve to be appreciably flattened? Several respected COVID-19 projection models show New Jersey’s health care system could be under capacity numbers by late April with continued social distancing, and the rate of infection slowed significantly by that time.

Gural said an early May opening for the Meadowlands would make managing stakes easier, but he realizes the health-care crisis must continue to improve.

The new New Jersey Sires Stakes Maturity stakes were scheduled for March and April and are expected to be moved to later in the season. The first leg of the Graduate for pacers was set for May 2, but will likely be delayed even if the Meadowlands can open in early May. Gural understands that horses need a chance to get a start before racing in a stakes. New Jersey Sires Stakes for 3 year olds are slated to begin on May 15 and also will be moved back.

Continues on page 2 ››››
On Wednesday, Monmouth Park, the Thoroughbred track in New Jersey, announced it does not plan to open its stable area until June 1 and hopes to begin its meet on Fourth of July weekend. It was scheduled to begin its 2020 meet on May 2.

“Monmouth is in a different situation than us, with incoming horses and people living on its backstretch,” noted Gural. “And I’m not sure they plan to race without customers at the track. We will likely lose money at the Meadowlands if we race without customers. I’m not sure Monmouth wants to race without customers.”

Gural is also hopeful that the late opening for Monmouth will prompt a turf-only Thoroughbred meet at the Meadowlands this fall, leaving the one-mile dirt oval available for making up Standardbred dates.

Last fall Monmouth requested and was awarded live Thoroughbred dates on the dirt at the Meadowlands in October and early November. Monmouth had been racing on turf at the Meadowlands, but this was set to be the first year for Thoroughbreds on the dirt there since 2009.

Gural said his projections for when Tioga and Vernon Downs will reopen are uncertain. They will not open their meets—or even their backstretches to horses—until the casinos attached to both tracks can open.

May 12 Blooded Horse Sale Canceled

The Blooded Horse Sales Company has announced it is canceling its Spring Mixed Sale scheduled for May 12 in Springfield, Ohio. Here is the announcement posted on its website:

“We’ve waited to make this announcement hoping things would change quickly, however after speaking with the folks at Champions Center and listening to the CDC announcements it’s clear we will not have a May Sale. We look forward to seeing you in August in much better times. Please stay safe at home. We will get through this!”

“The only way I can open those tracks is if the casinos are open because that’s the only way we can generate enough purse money,” said Gural.

But Gural added he is hopeful those two casinos may open sooner than some in other areas because of their locations.

“Vernon and Tioga have an advantage of being in areas where there are few people, lower populations,” noted Gural. “I would like to think they will be able to open sooner than the casinos in the New York City area, like Yonkers and Aqueduct.” — By Kathy Parker

Looking Back

Armbro Tristen Sweeps Forrest Skipper Series

On Sunday afternoon, April 16, 2000, Armbro Tristen completed a sweep of the three-week Forrest Skipper Series with a 6 ¼-length, 1:50.4 victory in the $52,250 final. John Campbell had directed Armbro Tristen to not only his two preliminary series wins but also in his triumph in the Matt’s Scooter Series final two months earlier, but when the current Hambletonian Society president suffered a concussion in a qualifier race spill two days earlier, Jack Moiseyev got the call from trainer Ray Remmen. Moiseyev came right back the following race to win the $40,900 Hiram Woodruff Series final with Sundown Score in 1:56.2. (Michael Lisa/Lisa Photo)
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE sired 20 foals in 2019 after his untimely death in January of 2018. We will offer our 12 yearlings from this final crop at Harrisburg this fall.

**COLTS**
- Duxbury Hanover (Dagnabit Hanover) brother to Done Well P, 4, 1:50.2H ($549,183)
- Del Mar Hanover (Darena Hanover) out of Jugette winning mare
- Frozen Hanover (Fashion Ecstasy) full brother to Filibuster Hanover P, 4, 1:48.3F ($1,681,996)
- Imperial Hanover (It Was Fascination) brother to Capt Midnight P, 2, 1:49.4S ($299,038)
- Lido Hanover (Lazan Hanover) brother to Dealt A Winner P, 3, 1:47.3M ($1,311,299)
- William Hanover (Well What's New) first foal from a sister to JK Will Power P, 4, 1:49.0S ($782,442)

**FILLIES**
- Ani Hanover (All Night Long) sister to A La Notte Hanover P, 4, 1:53.2F ($264,155)
- Hollywood Hanover (Hana Hanover) sister to Hayden Hanover P, 4, 1:47.3M ($615,752)
- Hoffman Hanover (Hug A Dragoness) first foal from a sister to Hugadragon P, 3, 1:49.3F ($934,733)
- Ipanema Hanover (Ideal Newton) sister to Inverse Hanover P, 4, 1:49.2M ($357,411)
- Mexican Hanover (Mesmerize Blue Chip) sister to Marloe Hanover P, 2, 1:50.3M ($313,787)
- Tenerife Hanover (That's What I Said) first foal from a sister to Alastor Hanover P, 1:50.1F ($784,360)
Stars Desperately Seeking Racing

All dressed up and nowhere to go. That’s the current plight for trainers right now as the stars of 2019 are—were—ready to embark on their 2020 campaigns.

So what is the approach for trainers as they sit in a holding pattern? HarnessRacing Special Preview’s Gordon Waterstone caught up with a few trainers and asked where they stood with their respective stable stars.

CHRIS RYDER—BETTOR’S WISH

The 2019 Three-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year, and runner-up behind Shartin N for Pacer of the Year and Horse of the Year, has been keeping a busy schedule as his weeks have been filled with both racing and breeding. The 4-year-old son of Bettor’s Delight is less than $85,000 from reaching the $2-million mark in career earnings.

“He’s getting mares in foal and he’s getting trained,” said Ryder. “He’s being bred four times a week at Wannridge Farm. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. We ship him over and back; it takes one hour from the time we leave until we get back. He’ll end up breeding about 65 mares.

“I wasn’t planning on racing him until May in the Graduate Series. It’s a day-to-day thing but he jogs every day. He hasn’t been in a race bike yet but he’s had pretty good works. I just have to watch that he doesn’t get a little antsy.”

LUC BLAIS—FORBIDDEN TRADE

The 2019 Hambletonian champion and O’Brien Award winner as Canada’s Horse of the Year and 3-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year is trained by Luc Blais, the runner-up in voting for Canada’s Trainer of the Year. The 4-year-old son of Kadabra was the third richest trotter in 2019 with $968,922 in earnings.

“I started back in February with him and for sure we’ve had to change,” said Blais. “He looks really good. I’ve got him down to a mile in 2:12 already. But we need to know, and nobody knows, when things will start. So it’s tough. We’re just trying to keep everybody in shape and healthy. Everybody is in the same boat.

“This is one of our best. I wasn’t planning on racing him in May, but I’m just keeping him in shape. He’s not too far to be ready, but I’m not pushing him to be ready. I didn’t pay the first stake because I didn’t think he’d be ready in May, but in June at Mohawk.”

TONY ALAGNA—AMERICAN HISTORY

American History had been scheduled to stand stud in 2020, but plans changed. Co-owner Myron Bell told Standardbred Canada last month that the decision was made because “he only raced four or five times at two and we felt he was lightly raced at three and of course he had a very good year at four and finished the year very good.” A 5-year-old son of American Ideal, American History went past the $1-million mark in career earnings when he captured the $500,000 Breeders Crown Older Horse Pace in late October at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

“We’ve been back in (1):56 with him and now we’re just in kind of a holding pattern here in Florida to see what shakes out and when we’ll need to step on the gas again and be ready to go,” said Alagna. “We’re still training but nothing on a schedule right now. A majority of them are ready to go, it’s just now a matter of a little maintenance keeping them fit and not getting into them too much.”

MARCUS MELANDER—GIMPANZEE

Gimpanzee was the runner-up in voting for 3-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year behind his stablemate Greenshoe, who has been retired to stud. Gimpanzee, who was the 2018 Two-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year after a perfect nine-for-nine season, won eight of 14 last year, including the $500,000 Breeders Crown and the $500,000 Yonkers Trot.

“He’s doing super and I’m very happy with how he’s coming back,” said trainer Marcus Melander about the son of Chapter Seven. “He’s ready to qualify whenever it happens. He was supposed to qualify by this time. We went 2:07 with him and then stepped back a little bit because we didn’t know when it was time to qualify. He’s so close to qualifying we’ll just continue to train him. I’m very excited about him.

“The Graduate was supposed to be his first race, and then the Hambletonian Maturity. I don’t think it will be any prob-

Continues on page 5...
lem for him to go against the older ones later in the season, but first he has the 4-year-old races.

“I was pretty lucky because we went in 2:07 with him before everything was shut down. If we had been in (1):58 or something like that, then it would have been frustrating. But now we could back off a little bit. I was happy that I didn’t push him even harder in training as now he can go regular training miles.”

Melander added that the 2019 Canadian Trotting Classic winner Green Manalishi S is no longer in his barn but instead has been sent to Sweden where he will race for his uncle, Stefan Melander.

“The original plan was to qualify him and race him once or twice in the Graduate and then he’d leave for Sweden,” said Melander, who added the lightly-raced 3-year-old trotter Hellbent For AM S was also on the plane that flew overseas. “He’s pretty much ready to race. They have some big 4-year-old races for him over there during the summer, and the biggest race for 4 year olds in Sweden is in the beginning of September so our plan was to first race him here.”

**NANCY TAKTER—MANCHEGO**

The world-champion trotting mare, who capped off her 2019 campaign with a win in the $325,000 Breeders Crown Mare Trot, enters 2020 with $2.1 million in career earnings. The 5-year-old daughter of Muscle Hill’s 1:49 win in the Allerage Farm at The Red Mile is the fastest mile ever by a female trotter, while her 1:50.1 win in the Dayton Trotting Derby at Hollywood Dayton is the fastest ever by a female trotter on a five-eighths mile track.

“I really wish I had somewhere to race her,” said Takter, who had been contemplating sending Manchego to the May 31 Elitlopp in Sweden. “She trained in (1):58 prior to the shutdown. We were ready to qualify her at the beginning of April. The way she trains, she’ll go miles in (2):20 and then she’ll go fast one week. She went in 2:08 last Saturday in a jog cart and was perfect. She’s so happy and relaxed. She’s just perfect right now; as perfect as any trotter could be.

“All my horses are waiting for the tracks to open. I haven’t shut any down. They train slow miles throughout the week and at the end of the week they go a faster mile. I’ll probably train (Manchego) in a race bike at the end of this week about a 2:00 mile.

“She’s not one that is really tough to get going. She’s good off a layoff. She had three weeks off and then broke the two world records in two weeks. She’s easy on herself like that. I had wanted to race her in the Preferred at the Meadowlands, and then the Cutler eliminations were supposed to be May 8.”

Takter has also gone on Facebook Live to give a behind-the-scenes look at Millennium Farm in New Jersey, the farm owned by her parents, Jimmy and Christina Takter, and also the home of trainer Per Engblom. The video has been shared by many others, including on the Meadowlands Facebook page.

“I can’t do videos when I’m training every other day, but jogging is another thing,” said Takter. “I think it’s important for bettors and fans who aren’t maybe as familiar to what goes on behind the scenes, that they get to see how our horses are actually taken care of and that we’re on top of things. We don’t just show up at the racetrack with the horses and treat them like a commodity, because they’re not. They’re athletes and we treat them like that.”

**JIM KING JR.—SHARTIN N**

The current “Queen” of racing, Shartin N was easily voted the 2019 Horse of the Year as well as Pacer of the Year and Older Pacing Mare of the Year. The 7-year-old daughter of Tintin In America entered 2020 with $2,035,413 in her three-year North American career. Shartin N was able to add $25,000 to that total when she won an Invitational Pace at Dover Downs on March 4 in 1:50 in her season debut. That race was supposed to be a prep for the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series at Yonkers—where she is the two-time defending champion—which never got underway.

“We’re adjusting our schedule as we go along,” said trainer Jim King Jr. “She’s still training. We have our farm here and she’s accustomed to going out every morning, and that part hasn’t changed at all. We spend a little more time towing her, she likes to tow on a lead shank. I take her with me when I go jog something. She enjoys that.

“The last couple weeks I just trained her once a week. As soon as it looks like we are going to get anywhere close to where we might get a green light, it won’t take me long to put her back together.

“If you saw her first race back, it was pretty likeable. I was tighter than most because I had raced her once. As soon as we could see it was official that nothing was going to happen good any time soon, I could back way off her. Now we’re on a belated schedule, and she is certainly going to go into her next event with plenty of meat on her bones.”
# Payments Due April 15

One list and one check keeps your horses eligible to these top events.

## Two-Year-Olds

**Breeders Crown® No. 34**
- $600,000 in 2020
- 3rd Sustaining Payment: $500
To race Friday, October 30, at Harrah's Hoosier Park, Anderson, Indiana
  - Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Friday, October 23
  - Final Sustaining Payment: $500 – due May 15
  - Entrance Fee: $5,000

**The Elevation**
- $125,000 Est. in 2020
- Open
To be raced Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
  - Final Sustaining Payment: $500 – due May 15
  - Entrance Fee: $7,500

**Kentuckiana Stallion Management Pace & Trot 2020**
- 2-Year-Old Filly Pace & Trot – Open To The World.
- $200,000 Est. each in 2020
To race Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
- $500
- Final Sustaining Payment: $1,000 – due May 15
  - Entrance Fee: $1,500

**Madison County (for 2-year-olds)**
- $70,000 Est. in 2020
- Colt & Gelding pace to be raced Friday, October 30 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
- Filly events and the Colt & Gelding trot to be raced Thursday, October 29 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
  - Entrance Fee: $300

**Matron Series 2020 (for 2-year-olds)**
- $400
To be raced Thursday, November 5 at Dover Downs
  - Top 8 format
  - Final Sustaining Fee: $500 – due May 15
  - Entrance Fee: $1,000

## Three-Year-Olds

**Breeders Crown® No. 33**
- Each of the four 3-year-old finals will be guaranteed $500,000 in 2020
  - $900 (all payments in US Funds)
To race Saturday, October 31, at Harrah's Hoosier Park, Anderson, Indiana
  - Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Friday, Oct. 23 (fillies) and Saturday, Oct. 24 (colts)
  - A March 15th 3-year-old payment was necessary
For more information about supplements and regular entries, please contact the office
  - Entrance Fee: $7,500

**Carl Erskine 2020**
- $200,000 Est. in 2020
- $1,000
  - Open
To race Friday, November 6 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
  - Entrance Fee: $2,000

**Jenna's Beach Boy 2020**
Early Closer For 3-year-old Colt and Gelding Pacers
- $150,000 Est. in 2020
- $750
To race Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
  - Entrance Fee: $1,500

**Matron Series 2020 (for 3-year-olds)**
-$692,000 Total 3-Year-Old Purse in 2019
- $750
To be raced at Dover Downs Thursday, November 12
  - Top 8 format
  - Entrance Fee: $1,500

**Monument Circle 2020**
-$200,000 Est. in 2020
- $1,000
Colts & Geldings only. To race Friday, November 6 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
  - Entrance Fee: $2,000

**Three-Year-Olds & Up**

**Breeders Crown® No. 32**
For 3-Year-Old & Older Pacers & Trotters - $600,000
To race Saturday, October 31, at Harrah's Hoosier Park, Anderson, Indiana
  - Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Saturday, October 24
  - $1,500
  - Entrance Fee: $10,000

**Caesar's Trotting Classic 2020**
-$200,000 Est. in 2020
- $2,000
To race Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
  - Entrance Fee: $2,000

**DAN PATCH 2020**
-$300,000 Est. in 2020
- $2,000
To race Friday, August 14 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
  - Entrance Fee: $2,500

**Dayton Trotting and Pacing Derby 2020**
-$175,000 Guaranteed each in 2020
- $1,250
To race Saturday, October 3 at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway
  - Entrance Fee: $2,500

**Dayton Distaff Pacing Derby 2020 (New in 2020)**
-$175,000 Guaranteed in 2020
- $1,250
To race Saturday, October 3 at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway
  - Entrance Fee: $2,500

Make checks payable and send all entries to: THE HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY
109 South Main St., Suite 18, Cranbury, NJ 08512-3174
When Dovescry Still Turned Out, No New Trainer Lined Up Yet

The 2019 Three-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year When Dovescry will return to the races, but co-owner Bruce Soulsby said her race schedule wasn’t expected to begin until July.

Although When Dovescry may not be immediately impacted by the shutdown of racing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, one thing that is certain to change in 2020 is her trainer.

The barn change will come as a result of last month’s indictment of trainer Rene Allard as part of the doping scandal that led to a total of 29 indictments of members of both the Standardbred and Thoroughbred industries.

“We have to decide who is going to train her,” said Soulsby. “We’re trying to get that figured out and that’s a headache in itself.”

In addition to a trainer change, the Meadowlands issued a statement that advised, “…any horse that was being trained by a trainer named in the recent Federal indictments at the time those indictments were handed down will not be accepted to race at the Meadowlands, Tioga or Vernon Downs in overnights or stakes for 60 days from the date that the tracks reopen for live racing.”

When Dovescry has been nominated to the John Steele Memorial Trot for mares, which is scheduled for Hambletonian Day (Aug. 8) at the Meadowlands.

Soulsby shares ownership of When Dovescry, as part of the Go Faster Stable, with Yves Sarrazin, Kapildeo Singh and Lawrence Dumain. In addition to Soulsby, U.S. Trotting Association records show that Go Faster Stable is also comprised of John Lengacher of Indiana and Allard Racing Inc., which is Allard’s mother, Danielle Henri.

Soulsby said When Dovescry is currently at a farm in North Carolina.

“Her first stakes race was actually in mid-July so there is no real hurry there,” said Soulsby. “The 4-year-old year is always a tough year coming back, but she looks outstanding and terrific.

“She looks terrific and she’s put on some weight,” he added. “I’m probably looking at seven or eight races; I don’t think we’ll over-race her. But we don’t even know what the landscape of racing is going to look like, and that’s really sad.”

When Dovescry has started 20 times over her two-year career, never missing the board for a 10-6-4 ledger. When Dovescry comes into 2020 with lifetime earnings of $935,090, with her mark of 1:50.1 coming in a Bluegrass division last September at The Red Mile. The effort bested her previous mark by one-fifth of a second while capturing the $500,000 Hambletonian Oaks at the Meadowlands.

“We never really raced her a lot or raced her hard at two and three anyways,” said Soulsby of the daughter of Muscle Hill. “It’s not like she’s a freak of nature. Her breeding is unbelievable. She’s bred to be a world champion. We paid $210,000 for her so it wasn’t like she is a fluke.” — By Gordon Waterstone
Canadian Hall Of Fame Announces 2020 Inductees

The Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame has announced driver Paul MacDonell, trainer Ben Wallace, female horse Amour Angus, male horse McWicked, and veteran horse Rambling Willie as the Standardbred inductees in 2020.

MacDonell’s driving career is highlighted by both consistency and superstars, with earnings surpassing $1 million for 33 consecutive years, due in part to piloting such horses as Canadian Hall of Fame members Somebeachsomewhere, Admirals Express and Invitro.

He has won three Metro Paces, five Confederation Cups, and eight Breeders Crowns as well as a record 16 Ontario Sires Stakes Super Finals. He was awarded an O’Brien Award as the 2008 Canadian Driver of the Year and to date has chalked up 5,623 wins and more than $122 million (C) in purse earnings.

Wallace honed his training skills working for Hall of Famers Keith Waples and the late Bill Wellwood before striking out on his own. He trained 1999 Pacing Triple Crown Winner and Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame Member Blissfull Hall, Breeders Crown winners Totally Western and Pans Culottes, as well as a list of million-dollar-plus winners including Apprentice Hanover, Easy Lover Hanover, Zooka, Cam Swifty, Camotion and Lookout Victory. Awarded an O’Brien as Canada’s Trainer of the Year in 1999, Wallace has 1,947 wins and more than $38 million (C) in purses.

Amour Angus made her mark on the Standardbred industry as a broodmare. Eleven of her 15 foals raced, earning in excess of $3.5 million. Of her eight foals sired by Garland Lobell, three went on to be top trotting sires in North America following successful race careers—Andover Hall, Angus Hall and Conway Hall. Her daughter Emilie Cas El (also by Garland Lobell) was the winner of the 1994 O’Brien Award for Horse of the Year before going on to be the dam of Hambletonian winner Trixton. Amour Angus is the granddam of such horses as Nuncio, Peaceful Way, Donato Hanover, Oakes, Surick Plead Not Guilty On Charges

Trainers Nick Surick and Chris Oakes were among 19 who entered pleas of not guilty before U.S. District Judge Mary Kay Vyskocil Thursday afternoon, April 2, on federal charges that included conspiracies to manufacture, distribute and administer adulterated or misbranded performance-enhancing drugs to racehorses. The proceedings were held via teleconference due to COVID-19 precautions.

Others with ties to harness racing who entered not guilty pleas are Chris Marino, Rick Dane Jr. and Ross Cohen. Also entering pleas of not guilty were prominent Thoroughbred trainers Jorge Navarro and Jason Servis. All 19 were indicted on March 9 in four separate cases.

To read a story on bloodhorse.com regarding the court proceedings, please click here.

Pampered Princess, Majestic Son, Wishing Stone and Windsong’s Legacy.

Recently retired from racing, McWicked earned $5.1 million (C) during a race career that began in 2013 and included 40 wins in 110 starts while setting his lifetime mark of 1:46.2 at age seven. The son of McArdle was owned primarily by Ed James’ SSG Stables and trained for the majority of his career by Casie Coleman. McWicked was the recipient of four O’Brien Awards, including the 2018 Horse of the Year. His career earnings make him the richest pacing stallion in the history of the sport.

The winner of 128 races in 305 starts during the 1970s and early 1980s, Rambling Willie was a three-time winner of the Canadian Pacing Derby. At the time of his retirement in 1983 he was the leading Standardbred money winner of all-time, earning more than $2 million, with most of his wins coming from overnight and invitational races.
PAYMENTS DUE APRIL 15*

One list and one check keeps your horses eligible to these top events.

*per USTA rule 12.02 all payments must be postmarked by midnight Thursday, April 16

ALL PAYMENTS FOR 2, 3 and 4 & up listed here required prior payments.

2-year-olds*
For these 2020 Events:

Harrah’s Hoosier Park
Breeders Crown*

The Elevation
Kentuckiana Stallion Management Pace
Kentuckiana Stallion Management Trot
Madison County

Dover Downs
Matron Series

3-year-olds*
For these 2020 Events:

Harrah’s Hoosier Park
Breeders Crown®

Carl Erskine
Jenna’s Beach Boy
Monument Circle

Dover Downs
Matron Series

3-year-olds and up
Harrah’s Hoosier Park
Breeders Crown®

Caesar’s Trotting Classic
Dan Patch

Hollywood Gaming at Dayton
Dayton Distaff Derby

Derby Dayton Trotting and Pacing Derbies

Make checks payable and send all entries to:
The Hambletonian Society®

Be sure to check our website for complete conditions, race dates & payment forms!

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Phone: 609-371-2211 • Fax: 609-371-8890 • Web: hambletonian.com
Krivelin Helping Harness Community

Bob Krivelin has faced challenging times before with his restaurant-supply business, but nothing quite like the situation he confronts now as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. But Krivelin is hoping he can overcome these difficult days while also helping the harness racing community do the same.

“**If people call ahead and make arrangements and tell us what they want, they can come and buy stuff very cheaply.**”

—Bob Krivelin

Krivelin is partnering with the GSY Amateur Club to send a truckload of food and supplies to horsemen at Monticello Raceway, hopefully next week.

“I’m operational, I’ve got people, I can deliver all over,” said Krivelin, a 68-year-old New Yorker who has enjoyed success in harness racing as an owner, trainer, and driver. “The difficulty is somewhat in distributing, but people can give out food safely with masks and gloves. It can be done.

“I’d like to help out in other areas, like Delaware or Pennsylvania, or wherever they need it. If someone reaches out, I’ll try to help.”

Krivelin added it was possible for supplies to be picked up at his company’s warehouse in Jersey City, N.J.

“If people call ahead and make arrangements and tell us what they want, they can come and buy stuff very cheaply,” Krivelin said. “That’s out there as well. If horsemen want to send a truck and a trailer they can load up and feed people.

“The majority of what I have is food, but I have paper products, latex gloves, toilet paper, cleaning products; I have everything. Frozen foods, tuna fish, flour, cheese, butter, eggs. A lot of stuff that people could use. But it has to be a coordinated effort.”

Krivelin's company, which supplies a number of restaurants in New York City, has seen a substantial downturn in business as many clients have closed their doors as a result of the pandemic.

“As a businessperson, I’m always thinking worst-case scenarios,” Krivelin said. “You try to prepare for things, but how could you prepare for this. It’s an incredible moment, to say the least.

“We’re always doing the charitable thing when we can, but it’s now much more difficult to do than before because my own people are hurting. I’m struggling myself financially to keep my operation going. I can’t give all of (the inventory) away because I’m trying to support the people who are still working for me. But I will give part of it in charity. Hopefully I can help other people at the same time. That would be nice.”

For more information, or to arrange a pick-up or distribution of supplies, call Krivelin at (917) 583-7466. (Ken Weingartner)

Stallion Breedings To Help New Jersey Horsemen

In the wake of trying times recently, we are excited to share a bit of good news and positive spirit. An auction of four 2020 stallion breedings will be donated to help those New Jersey horsemen most affected by the Coronavirus crisis. The proceeds will be donated directly to the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ) Benevolent Fund.

Deo Volente Farms’ owners Thomas Pontone and Michael Gulotta are announcing a donation of 2020 breedings to Lazarus, Trixton and Lis Mara to benefit the SBOANJ Benevolent Fund. In addition, the original ownership group of Six Pack—Jeff Gural, Svanstedt Stables, Stall Kalmar Inc., Lars Berg and KnutssonTrotting—are also generously donating a 2020 breeding to Six Pack to the Fund.

One-hundred percent of the proceeds generated from the online auction of these four breeding will go directly to the SBOANJ Benevolent Fund.

“It is the right thing to do. New Jersey horseman have been particularly hard hit and I am extremely happy to lend a hand,” said Meadowlands’ chairman Gural.

The auction began on Ongait.com on Wednesday, April 8, running through Monday, April 13. Winning bidders will make their checks out directly to the SBOANJ Benevolent Fund. The winning bidders will be offered one breed back opportunity in a subsequent breeding season in the event that the 2020 breeding does not result in a live foal.

When Mark Ford, president of the SBOANJ, heard about the program he responded by saying, “I really appreciate these owners stepping up to help the horsemen. These are unchartered waters for us as an industry right now. We as an organization will make sure that these funds get into the right hands.”

Gulotta president and CEO of Deo Volente Farms said: “I am a strong believer in the commandment to love our neighbors. Especially at this religious time of the year, lending some assistance to those most affected by the virus is entirely consistent with the season and with that commandment.”

Pontone added: “I love harness racing and its community. It hurts to witness the pain being borne by our horsemen. I needed to help and I am proud to do so.”

Questions about the auction may be directed to Joe Savare at Deo Volente Farms at (908) 399-8400 or to joe@deovolentefarms.com. (Deo Volente Farms)
Cameo Hills has about 100 mares on its property—about 50 of its own and others outside owned—and Jones said they have 33 foals on the ground, with about 40 more to foal.

Among the recent arrivals was a filly foaled by Check Me Out 3, 1:51.2 ($1,903,795) last weekend. The foal’s sire is Tactical Landing, and Jones is thrilled by what he’s seen. “This is the nicest foal she’s had,” he said of Check Me Out’s new filly, who is the Donato Hanover-sired mare’s fifth foal. “I was going to send the mare to Chapter Seven, but this filly is so nice I may go back to Tactical Landing. I have six breedings to Chapter Seven and five to Tactical Landing, so that way I’m set.”

Check Me Out is owned by Jones and Ray Schnittker, and he noted he and Schnittker also have a daughter of Check Me Out, Check Out Trixie (by Trixton), who has a Chapter Seven by her side.

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Another accomplished mare who foaled within the last week is $2.4 million winner Pure Country p,4, Q1:48. The daughter of Somebeachsomewhere gave birth to her first foal, a filly by Sweet Lou, at Diamond Creek Farm in Pennsylvania. Pure Country will now be bred to Always B Miki. Both Sweet Lou and Always B Miki stand at Diamond Creek in Pennsylvania.—By Kathy Parker
**Some Thoughts About Russell Williams’ Open Letter**

I know U.S. Trotting Association president Russell Williams to be a good man who cares deeply about horses and harness racing. But I believe he has chosen the wrong path forward for an industry that is running out of time to fix the integrity issues we all know we have. I don’t share his disdain for the pending federal legislation, the Horseracing Integrity Act, and I certainly don’t share his view that the more practical solution to the problem is to buttress state racing commissions. I hope he meant it in his open letter early last week when he invited industry stakeholders to join and shape the conversation we need to have about how we fix the problem.

I have a few thoughts about Williams’ recent open letter. Those who oppose the USTA on this are not engaging in “performance outrage,” as Williams claims, but are instead major stakeholders with serious ideas and legitimate concerns about the path the USTA is taking and the way in which the organization has done so. If there were easy solutions we’d already have found them. And if there is anything I can do to help untangle this web, and be part of a solution going forward, count me in. I know other owners, trainers, and breeders who also stand ready to help.

First, Williams is wrong to suggest that federalizing the problem won’t help promote federal investigative work and enforcement. It’s true the Act would be administered by the Commerce Department, and not the Justice Department, but anyone who has ever tried to maneuver between state and federal bureaucrats knows it’s easier to maneuver instead within the same bureaucracy. In other words, it’s far more likely that the Justice Department will be far more involved in enforcing racing integrity if the Commerce Department is complaining about it than if the complaints were coming, as they only occasionally do now, from state regulators.

Indeed, I hope that the USTA reconsiders its opposition to the federal legislation generally and works instead to remedy through lobbying and cooperation with Thoroughbred racing interests what Williams and company see as its flaws. I don’t think those flaws are fatal. There is the question of Lasix, of course, and the question of payment calculated through races and purses. Williams calls all this “federal snake oil.” I call it an opportunity to try to negotiate language that would better suit harness racing so that the industry, as a whole, can support the federal legislation in what would be its amended form.

In a perfect world, Williams’s plan to keep the feds away by turning to a revitalized and revamped state regulatory regime makes great sense. Of course local regulators would be the most suitable to rigorously enforce integrity rules—and work to find new ones. But that hasn’t happened in the past, it’s not happening now, and it would take an enormous amount of political and legal energy to make it happen in the future. And money. It would take an awful lot of money to overhaul these commissions, maybe more or maybe less than the $13 million Williams cites as the cost to harness racing of the federal legislation.

Asking current racing regulators to become part of the solution when for so long they have been part of the problem makes little sense. The commissions may be “chronically underfunded,” as Williams claims, but even if that is true it’s no excuse for all the ways in which racing regulators have failed to enforce integrity rules over the years. Is the USTA prepared to advocate in favor of wholesale personnel changes among regulators? Is it willing to help fund the legal work it would take to revise regulations and statutes that govern racing? The problem with racing commissions won’t be fixed merely by giving them more money to investigate more crimes. Anyone investigating what’s happening with regulators in New York?

I think Williams’ plan is soundest when it comes to expanding the obligations licensees owe to the industry. Of course a licensee should consent to a suspension pending a hearing, rather than the other way around, but even here it will take a great deal of legal and political capital, and maybe a lawsuit or two, to fix. Williams wants to “untie the hands” of regulators in this way. I agree. Who is going to pay for it? The same folks who won’t pay for industry marketing? And while all of these state reforms are in the works, a process that will take years even if funded, why shouldn’t harness racing get the help it needs from federal regulators? The time for all of us to come together to do something big is now—before none of us is left with a choice.

Andrew Cohen is a Standardbred breeder and owner and for many years was a weekly columnist for harnessracing.com.
Cal Expo officials announce meet is over
We are very sorry to inform our Horseman and Employees that our current meet has officially come to an end. Today we had discussions with the Sacramento County Health Department about possibly reopening, the County’s emergency order that was scheduled to expire tonight (April 7), will be extended through May 1. Racing closed to the public is not exempt from the order.  

Harrington Raceway delays opening of meet
Harrington Raceway in Delaware, which was scheduled to open its live race meet on Monday, April 13, has delayed the opening.  

SRF asks for donations to help its horses
After nearly 32 years of helping thousands of Standardbreds, and shining under numerous awards from Racing Commissioners International, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, Harness Tracks of America and many others, the Standardbred Retirement Foundation and its horses are facing serious trouble during this COVID-19 pandemic.  

Jimmy Freight’s book full and closed
It has been announced that the 2020 book for Jimmy Freight p,4,1:48.1s, $1,457,405(C) is now full and closed. Jimmy Freight is standing his first year in 2020 at Winbak Farm of Ontario.  

Warren Schnitker, father of Ray, dies
Warren Louis Schnitker died Wednesday, April 8, in North Tonawanda, N.Y., with his loving family by his side. He was 91.  

Horse owner, Fazoli’s CEO Howard talks about COVID-19
Horse owner and Fazoli’s president and CEO Carl Howard spoke with U.S. Trotting Association social media and publicity coordinator Wendy Ross on Monday (April 6) in a remote interview about the challenges facing horsemen and businesses during the current coronavirus pandemic.  

Ohio establishes donation portal
The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association (OHHA) has set up a PayPal donation portal for those that want to help Ohio horsemen in need during the COVID-19 crisis. All money donated will go to the OHHA Horsemen’s Benevolent Fund. Those that donate will be able to earmark their donation for either the Equine Benevolent or Human Benevolent fund.  

Meadowlands Racetrack feeds those in need
With the COVID-19 pandemic hitting Bergen County extremely hard the Meadowlands Racetrack wanted to help the community in any way possible. After learning the Meadowlands YMCA was working with Table to Table to distribute meals to families in need, the Meadowlands Racetrack and its restaurant partner Ark Meadowlands pitched in to help feed the local community.  

SOANY announces grants for grooms
The Standardbred Owners Association of New York has announced that it will be providing grants to qualified grooms in order to assist them during the temporary shutdown of racing at Yonkers Raceway. The qualified grooms (those who have paddocked horses more than a threshold number of racing nights) will be receiving a subsidy of $400. The payments will be sent out during the week of April 6.  

Youth Foundation cancels events through August
On behalf of Harness Horsemen’s Youth Foundation (HHYF) trustees and staff, we regret to announce that all HHYF events scheduled for May, June, July, and August have been canceled. Possible programs may be set up for late fall; our hope is to attach “mini-camps” to existing events to continue to make that all-important hands-on connection of young people and Standardbreds.  

Mike Wilder reflects on career
Mike Wilder was anxious to drive. He was 10 years old and already helping his stepfather David Ritter around the family’s stable, doing stalls, bathing horses. But his desire to jog a horse for the first time was overwhelming and he was constantly bringing it up. Finally, Ritter relented.  

Rock N Roll Heaven wins 2010 Little Brown Jug
On Sept. 23, 2010, Rock N Roll Heaven dominated the Little Brown Jug with a historic and still unparalleled performance. The colt won his first Jug heat in a world-record-equalling 1:49.2 and returned later in the afternoon to sweep the event by winning the second heat in a duplicate 1:49.2. It was the first time in history a horse won twice on the same day with sub-1:50 miles.  

Results of cobalt as PED study published
In a joint project...a recently published journal article shows that a sterile solution of cobalt salts (50 mg of elemental cobalt as CoCl2 in 10 ml of saline, given IV for three consecutive days) did not affect aerobic or anaerobic performance or plasma erythropoeitin concentration in race fit Standardbred horses.  

Danae, Precious Beauty new Hall of Famers
The Living Horse Hall of Fame committee of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame has announced the selections for the 2020 broodmare inductees into the Harness Racing Living Horse Hall of Fame. Danae 3,1:54.2 ($529,099) and Precious Beauty p,2,1:53.3 ($112,842) were elected.