Williams Elaborates On USTA Position On Horseracing Integrity Act

Last week Hanover Shoe Farms announced the establishment of a $250,000 matching fund grant to support the work of restoring full integrity to the harness racing industry. Subsequently, over the weekend, Hanover CEO and president Russell Williams, who is also president of the U.S. Trotting Association (USTA), authored a letter published in Harness Racing Update which stated that funds raised for the initiative will be administered by the USTA.

The announcement of the initiative also prompted some Standardbred breeders and industry participants to again question the USTA’s opposition to the federal Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019. The USTA has been opposed to the legislation mostly on two fronts: it places a disproportionate amount of the expense to fund a new federal regulatory group on Standardbred racing, and it fails to address differences between Standardbred and Thoroughbred racing which may affect therapeutic medication policies.

Williams, who has a law degree from the University of Richmond (Va.), worked in the criminal law enforcement division of the Virginia Attorney General’s office and clerked for two years for U.S. District Judge James R. Spencer. He was asked to comment about the USTA’s current position on the Horseracing Integrity Act (HIA).

Is the USTA reaching out to Thoroughbred interests to find a way to negotiate acceptable treatment of the Standardbred sport in the Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019?

Yes. In April 2019 Mike Tanner of the USTA sat down with Matt Iuliano of The Jockey Club to have an open discussion of the possibilities. Matt and Mike have an excellent professional relationship. Matt was open to crafting a solution, but when we went to Capitol Hill, it was impossible to obtain any reasonable improvements to the draft bill. Even worse, when Congress held a subcommittee hearing on the HIA, no Standardbred witness was allowed to testify.

Recently I heard from one of Jeff Gural’s emissaries on this subject and responded immediately to Jeff and to Jim Gagliano, President of The Jockey Club. Mr. Gagliano then responded as follows:

“Thanks, Russell. We will take our cue from Jeff here. Much of what you wrote about is either already covered in the bill or simply remedied. Also, I agree with Jeff that this investigation is far from over and the results of it will further weaken the argument supporting the state-based status quo.”

Continues on page 2 ››››
As you can see, if Congress is so starkly unwilling to discuss relevant changes, it doesn’t matter in the slightest what Jim Gagliano and Jeff Gural might say, once Jim and Jeff decide they are willing to discuss them. The treatment we have received so far simply foreshadows what we will face if the HIA becomes law.

**Doesn’t it stand to reason that being collaborative with Thoroughbreds is better than standing separately?**

Yes, this is obvious. For example, we have been collaborative with Thoroughbreds on the American Horse Council for going on 40 years. The present HIA ploy is an entirely different story. It is now in its third Congress. In the first Congress, it was a Thoroughbred-only concept, and it failed. In the second Congress, The Jockey Club shoehorned harness racing into the bill without consulting us.

Meanwhile, we are collaborating very actively with other, more constructive Thoroughbred interests on building a breed-specific interstate medication compact. This collaboration will be good for all racing breeds. The HIA will be bad for them.

**What if the federal indictments had only found the activities of Jorge Navarro and Jason Servis, and our bad guys had been overlooked?**

There is neither a connection nor a relationship between the HIA and the federal indictments. In other words, even if the HIA had been in effect, it would have made no difference in whether the indictments would have materialized. We must not surrender to the notion that federalizing racing medication regulation can be expected to get us anything that we don’t already have.

Did anyone not notice that the indictments are based on the federal Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906? Looking into them in order to possibly replicate the process in the future, here is what I have been able to determine so far. Originally, the FBI was investigating medication “compounders,” beginning with a startlingly corrupt veterinarian in Florida. Along the way, the FBI was able to obtain wiretap warrants that led them to a group of alleged Thoroughbred and Standardbred horse abusers and cheaters. A powerful investigation agency, 5Si, assisted this effort, and we are indebted to Jeff Gural and The Jockey Club for funding the 5Si effort. Our $250,000 challenge grant, which has been very well-received, will enable us to fund future investigations at a similar level of expertise.

I welcome these prosecutions and any new ones because they will help us clean up our sport. Let us learn from the indictments.

As always, we must step up our game to be competitive with sophisticated and well-funded criminals. The prosecutions have created an environment in which action will be more effective, they provide a model for new approaches, and we have the funding to effect change.

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**USTA Projects Budget Deficit, Furloughs Employees, Cuts Pay**

In its annual meeting held via teleconference earlier this month, the board of directors of the United States Trotting Association (USTA) approved a budget that reflected adjustments made anticipating revenue shortfalls caused by the shutdown of racing due to the covid-19 pandemic.

The USTA’s budget originally estimated a $700,000 surplus, but the expected downturn in revenues reversed that forecast to a deficit.

“It took us about a week to rework all the numbers,” said USTA president Russell Williams. “I assigned the budget issue to a specific group. We went from a $700,000 surplus to a deficit of a couple of hundred thousand dollars.”

Williams said the estimated budget deficit was a “conservative figure, meaning that things might not turn out to be as bad as forecast. We didn’t want to unnecessarily furlough people, but we took what we think is the best action.”

The USTA budget forecast required layoffs and salary reductions. Ten of the association’s 47 employees were furloughed for 12 weeks, among them well-known writer Ken Weingartner. In addition, retained employees took a pay cut. The USTA will continue to pay its cost of the health insurance for furloughed employees.

The USTA generates a large portion of its revenues from fees paid by tracks when they are racing.—By Kathy Parker

People are frustrated with the lack of action by state racing commissions and regulation. Is there anything more that can be done?

If only people would read the draft of the federal bill for themselves. At best, the HIA is nothing more than an overly elaborate, overly expensive interstate medication compact, and it is not breed-specific (among other serious flaws). The state commissions are not going to go away, as the HIA recognizes in its own language. In Section 4 of the draft bill, the legislation sunsets if an interstate medication compact comes into being. We are already building an interstate medication compact that protects the performance models of all the racing breeds. The ill-considered HIA mirage is not needed.

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The June Midwest Mixed Sale will provide the ideal marketplace for both breeding stock and racehorses. With other mixed sales cancelled in April and May due to the Covid issue, a late June sale will be the perfect time to buy and sell as harness racing gets back underway.

Demand will be at a high and buyers will be looking for young horses and conditioned horses, as well as breeding stock.

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New 4-Year-Old Races Proposed For 2022

A new digital platform called EquineX was announced earlier this week, with the announced intention of bringing transparency and integrity to racing, as well as a new series of races for 4 year olds of both sexes and gaits beginning in 2022.

In making the announcement, EquineX chairman Paul Simmonds—a longtime Standardbred owner most well known for his ownership of Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame inductee Wesgate Crown—said 2 year olds must be registered by May 10, 2020, to be eligible to the new races. The cost of subscribing is $29.99 (US) per month—with a discount for paying in full—with an app for both the trainer and veterinarian to use to provide information about each horse.

Simmonds revealed that 20 percent of the subscription money will go to a Coronavirus Hardship Fund to help those in the industry affected by the covid-19 pandemic that has currently shut down all harness racetracks in North America.

Hall of Famer Jimmy Takter is a co-founder of EquineX and the race for trotting mares has been named The Jimmy Takter. “I’ve been involved with this for more than a year,” said Takter. “It’s a very good program to help keep the integrity in the sport. You basically have a record of horses and what they’ve been doing, so this is going to be a positive for the sport.”

Only the race for male pacers has also been given a name: The John Campbell. “This was something they approached me about and I considered it to be an honor,” said Campbell, president and CEO of The Hambletonian Society, which is not involved in the project.

The EquineX announcement stated that the four new 4-year-old races would be conducted in the fall of 2022 at The Red Mile. “The Red Mile has agreed to hold these races if they come to fruition in 2022,” said track co-owner George Segal when contacted.

In reaching out to some owners who would possibly be interested in the new races and digital platform, there wasn’t much enthusiasm. One trainer who did not want to be quoted stated that with the current plight of racing, the timing was poor and that they would not be entering any horses.

Mark Weaver, part of Weaver Bruscemi LLC, an owner in the majority of horses in the Ron Burke Stable, said he has used a similar app in the past. Weaver said he doesn’t plan on nominating any of his 2 year olds to the series.

“I’m all for new ideas, but the biggest thing, and my concern, is that the percentage of horses that we have right now as 2 year olds, that in the fall of their 4-year-old year, when these races would go, that I’d guess would (Burke Racing/Weaver Bruscemi) have 10 percent of the horses we have now. We have 70 two year olds now, so at best we might have seven of those left by the fall of 2022.”

Trainer Mike Keeling agreed. “I’m always happy to see something different, but I just don’t think this is an experiment that people are going to bite right now,” said Keeling. — By Gordon Waterstone
THE 2022 MEADOWLANDS PACE
FOALS OF 2019 TO BE RACED IN 2022

$50 Nomination Fee
Due May 15, 2020

$650,000
Estimated Total Purse

NOMINATIONS CLOSE MAY 15, 2020

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Entered by__________________________________________________________
Owner or Authorized Agent
Address__________________________________________________________

Telephone No._____________________________________________________

Trainer____________________Telephone No.__________________________

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New Kentucky Horsemen’s Group Meets Resistance

The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC) held a public hearing on Wednesday morning (April 22), and one of the subjects discussed was the formation and approval by the KHRC of a second association to represent the Standardbred horsemen in the state. The hearing was held via teleconference, with the public also allowed to view via the KHRC’s YouTube page.

“The existing Kentucky Harness Horsemen’s Association has worked diligently throughout the years to provide total representation to this group; however, in recent times with the advent of historical horse racing and increase in purses...the industry has become much more diverse,” said Cobb. “The Red Mile is in support of this request. We stand prepared to support and encourage cooperation among the various horsemen’s groups, the racetracks and the commission.”

Several horsemen on the teleconference hearing pointed out a perceived conflict of interest with the principals in the KHA. Some pointed out that Brady is the brother-in-law of Jim Avritt Jr., one of the founding members of the KHHA, and that he would serve as president. At a Dec. 9 meeting of the KHRC, the KHA was granted approval. The proposal now goes to the Legislative Research Committee (LRC) at the State Capitol in Frankfort for approval, but prior to that a public hearing was required to be held. Approximately 15 people spoke regarding the KHA, but the percentage was weighed heavily toward the negative.

Speaking on behalf of the KHA was Brady, who noted his longtime participation in racing in Kentucky, as a partner in Kentuckiana Farms and the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale Co. Because of the format, questions were not allowed to be asked, thus Brady could not address later concerns which he did not mention in his opening statement.

“The KHA could be an inclusive association involving owners, breeders, drivers, trainers and fans,” said Brady. “We will strive to promote harness racing throughout North America and look forward to forming meaningful relationships with the KHRC and racetracks.”

—Bob Brady

Mr. Brady recognized that he is the brother-in-law of Ken Jackson, they are business partners in Kentuckiana Farms, which is one of the two largest Standardbred breeding operations in Kentucky. Not only that, they operate the second largest Standardbred yearling sale in the United States in the Lexington Select Sale. And the Lexington Select Sale is not only run by Mr. Brady, Mr. Jackson, but the owners of The Red Mile...So in essence, what Mr. Brady is asking the LRC to do, is to recognize a second organization that would allow he and Mr. Jackson, on behalf of the horsemen, to negotiate contracts involving a lot of money on behalf of the horsemen, with their business partner. You don’t have to be a lawyer to recognize this obvious conflict of interest. Is there anybody out there that would really believe that the horsemen are going to receive a fair shake?”

Avritt’s father, Jim Avritt Sr., one of the founding members of the KHHA and also a retired attorney, agreed with his son.

“This is an attempt from someone on behalf of Churchill Downs and The Red Mile to form a secondary group of which they can negotiate racing contracts,” said Avritt Sr. “Otherwise, why would they have filed their support with the Racing Commission?”

—Jim Avritt Jr.

The reason I’m against the KHA is that Mr. Brady, who stated that he is the co-owner of the Lexington Selected Sale, owns that group with The Red Mile, and that is a conflict of interest in my point of view,” said Chuck Grubb, who identified himself as a Standardbred horse owner and professional gambler.

Jim Avritt Jr., who recently retired from his practice as an attorney to concentrate fully on training his own stable, referred back to the original letter submitted by Brady to the KHRC in late November.

“The new horsemen’s organization does not ‘to promote, support and facilitate the growth of the Standardbred industry in Kentucky and to promote and encourage cooperative efforts to move Standardbred racetracks, owners, breeders, trainers, drivers and fans for the overall benefit of the Standardbred industry, as the letter dated Nov. 20, 2019 from Bob Brady states,” said Avritt Jr., currently a KHHA director. “This is about money, it’s about power, and it’s about control. This is being sponsored on behalf of The Red Mile and Churchill Downs to essentially create a second organization where they would be allowed to essentially, for all intents and purposes, negotiate with themselves through the tracks on behalf of the horsemen.

“Mr. Brady recognized that he is the brother-in-law of Ken Jackson, they are business partners in Kentuckiana Farms, which is one of the two largest Standardbred breeding operations in Kentucky. Not only that, they operate the second largest Standardbred yearling sale in the United States in the Lexington Select Sale. And the Lexington Select Sale is not only run by Mr. Brady, Mr. Jackson, but the owners of The Red Mile...So in essence, what Mr. Brady is asking the LRC to do, is to recognize a second organization that would allow he and Mr. Jackson, on behalf of the horsemen, to negotiate contracts involving a lot of money on behalf of the horsemen, with their business partner. You don’t have to be a lawyer to recognize this obvious conflict of interest. Is there anybody out there that would really believe that the horsemen are going to receive a fair shake?”

Continues on page 7”
Also speaking in opposition to the KHA was Delaware Standardbred Owners Association executive director Sal DiMario, also the secretary of Harness Horsemen International.

“The Kentucky Harness Horsemen’s Association has ably represented Kentucky horsemen since 1973 and is recognized throughout the industry as the legitimate representatives of Kentucky harness horsemen and women,” said DiMario. “The KHHA currently has contracts with every harness racetrack in the state and is recognized as the Kentucky harness horsemen’s representative for simulcasting, as is required by the Federal Interstate Horse Racing Act.

“The KHA lacks all the elements of a legitimate and democratically elected horsemen’s association, and yet this rule would grant them instant credibility and I suggest would be an arbitrary decision not based on credible, bona fide credentials.”

The proposed regulation provides that the KHA would not replace the Kentucky Harness Horsemen’s Association, which was formed back in 1973, but to work as a second association representing the horsemen. There are two associations representing the Thoroughbred horsemen at Churchill Downs, and Churchill’s executive director of racing Mike Ziegler spoke to the benefits of having two groups.

“Given that neither of those two groups hold the monopoly over decisions involving horsemen...they can be reasonable and act in the best interests of their members,” said Ziegler.

KHHA executive director Gabe Prewitt expressed his skepticism.

“There is not one, single harness racing jurisdiction in the United States of America where racetracks are able to negotiate with two horsemen’s groups,” said Prewitt. “To my knowledge, with the situation in Kentucky with the two Thoroughbred groups...is a unique situation to our state.”

Prewitt added that he has receive no positive feedback from any Kentucky horsemen regarding the new KHA.

“I’ve gotten many calls since this has happened, and it seems the true Kentucky backstretch horsemen don’t know who Bob Brady is, nor do they know why he wants to represent,” said Prewitt.—By Gordon Waterstone

Dr. Roberts Speaks Out Against Proposed Kentucky Drug Regulations

In addition to testimony regarding a new association to represent the harness horsemen in the state, a public hearing held via teleconference by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission included discussion regarding proposed changes to regulations that include the eventual elimination of the use of Lasix as well as withdrawal time for the administration of corticosteroids from seven to 14 days pre-race.

Included among those who commented on the issue was Dr. Andy Roberts, a veterinarian for both Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds in the state. Roberts, who is a member of the Kentucky Equine Drug Research Council, voiced his objection to the proposed corticosteroid rule, noting the adverse effects it would have on Standardbreds.

“If the regulation were followed as written, a horse would not be able to race for three weeks after injection,” said Dr. Roberts. “A Standardbred races on a seven-day schedule. If you have a ‘Saturday night horse,’ that horse races back the following Saturday night. If you give them a 14-day withdrawal period for corticosteroids, it couldn’t even race on the second Saturday.

“So they would essentially have a 20-day interval between racing. In Standardbred racing, if you have a 30-day interval between racing, you’re not allowed to race without requalifying your horse.”

The Racing Medication Testing Consortium (RMTC) is in support for the proposal regarding corticosteroids.

“The 14-day stand-down period...(is) intended to improve equine safety in that they allow the trainer and the horse’s connections, attending veterinarians regulatory veterinarians, the opportunity to monitor that horse’s soundness,” said Dr. Mary Scollay, the executive director of the RMTC.

Lasix would be banned in Kentucky for 2 year olds on race day this year, and in 2021 the use of Lasix would be banned for all stakes races. Dr. Roberts pointed out the new regulations were proposed by Churchill Downs and that further study needed to be done. He referenced an unpublished study that stated that there were electrolyte imbalances resulting from using Lasix 24 hours before post time of a race.

“I think we put those horses at greater risk by not using a legitimate therapeutic medication,” said Roberts. “At this time racing is on very frail ground. We need to do things that actually help the horse and create a safer environment.

“These regulations were brought forth by Churchill Downs and I question the legitimacy of racetrack operators setting medication rules, just in general. I’m not sure they have the expertise to determine that.”

Roberts concluded, “I think we need to have a plan that actually puts the horses first, and neither of these proposed changes do that as written. I think we need to have a bigger picture and go back to the drawing board.”

Written public comments can still be submitted to the Racing Commission by April 30. All the comments would then be forwarded to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC), along with Commission responses. The LRC would then decide if the proposal should go the state legislature for a vote and then eventual signature by Gov. Andy Beshear.—By Gordon Waterstone
An outstanding and imposing (16.2 hands) individual, VOLSTEAD was bred in the USA, became an International Champion, and is standing his first season for an introductory fee of $4,500.

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- CANTAB HALL is a proven sire of sires including, Father Patrick, Uncle Peter, and Explosive Matter.
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- A serious racehorse that won in 1:51.3 on the 5/8 mile track at Solvalla, a season’s leading record in 2017.
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  Dam: MADAME VOLO 2,1:56.4 ($32,504, also the dam of HIGH BRIDGE 1:54.3f ($327,544, etc.)
  2nd Dam: MISSYS GOAL 3,1:56 ($28,252). Dam of MISSY’S GOALFIRE 3,1:57.1h ($329,939),
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Looking Back

Dave Palone Wins 2000 Rosecroft Driver’s Challenge

Dave Palone’s win with Mark It Paid (5) over Bolero Graffiti helped spur him to victory—and the $25,000 first-place prize—in the All-Star Driver’s Challenge on April 29, 2000, at Rosecroft Raceway. With the help of a disqualification that elevated one of his horses from second to first, Palone won three contest races. That allowed him to open up a big lead before local representative Tom Jackson captured a pair of races late to close the margin to just four points. Jackson took home $8,000 for his runner-up effort. (Bill Graham Photo)

Surick’s Kentucky License Revoked; Four Others Indicted Enter Pleas

The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC) met by teleconference on Tuesday afternoon and one of the things announced was that the license of harness trainer Nick Surick has been revoked “in response to his indictment on charges of drug adulteration and misbranding conspiracy, and obstruction of justice in a large-scale federal case that came to light last month.”

Surick was one of 29 indicted last month in the doping scandal. He later pleaded not guilty in a Southern District of New York courtroom, with that hearing also held via teleconference. All others involved have subsequently also entered pleas of “not guilty.”

KHRC executive director Marc Guilfoil told harnessracing.com Wednesday morning that while other harness participants, including trainers Chris Oakes and Rene Allard, were also included in the indictments, Surick was the only one to have already applied for his 2020 Kentucky license. In making the announcement at Tuesday’s hearing, it was stated that Surick’s license in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Delaware had already been revoked.

Also, according to reports, four others indicted pleaded not guilty on Tuesday in a telephonic arraignment conducted by District Court Judge P. Kevin Castel for the Southern District of New York. The defendants waived their right to physically appear in court because of the coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic.

Veterinarian Louis Grasso, veterinary supply distributor Donato Poliseno, Standardbred trainer Thomas Guido III and assistant trainer Conor Flynn all entered pleas of not guilty to a single count of drug adulteration and misbranding conspiracy.

Veterinarian Louis Grasso, veterinary supply distributor Donato Poliseno, Standardbred trainer Thomas Guido III and assistant trainer Conor Flynn all entered pleas of not guilty to a single count of drug adulteration and misbranding conspiracy.
Hambletonian Elimination winner

Enterprise
2,1:58.1f; 3,1:52 ($423,121)

Chapter Seven - Shes Gone Again - SJ's Caviar

Standing at Dublin Valley Farms

By the red hot sire Chapter Seven, Enterprise was a multiple stakes winner at 3.
He is from the top producing dam SHES GONE AGAIN whose first three foals all trotted in 1:52.4 or faster, (including LIVE LAUGH LOVE, BT1:50.2).
His dam is also a half-sister to Breeders Crown champion Poof She's Gone 3,1:53.1 ($1,312,093).

Enterprise won half of his 12 starts in 2017, including an elimination of the Hambletonian, and finished fourth, placed third in the $1,000,000 final at the Meadowlands.
Enterprise has won on all sized tracks, including a 1:55.4h victory against older horses at Yonkers.

Standing his second season, ENTERPRISE was well received in the Buckeye State and is highly fertile.
The handsome son of Chapter Seven bred well over 100 mares in 2019 with better than a 90% conception rate.
Despite the nationwide interruption, he has been bred to, or is booked to, 100+ mares this season as well.
Uncertainty Today, And What Happened In 1918

People have more time than ever for social media these days, and that means predicting how the covid-19 pandemic will continue to transpire. This is certainly a time when speculation is rampant.

Will harness racing be able to begin in May? How long will it take for casinos, in many places our gaming partners, to be back in business?

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, who presented the trophy at last year’s Little Brown Jug, has said his administration is working on a plan to slowly reopen the state’s economy starting May 1. Ohio racing leadership is working on preparedness, hopeful racing can resume in May.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf has announced a reopening plan, although it is presently unclear how racing in the various parts of the state fits into the mix.

And what about the fall yearling sales? Will sales be held and if so, will buyers show up?

The sport’s two major sales, the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale and the Standardbred Horse Sales Company’s auction in Harrisburg, are already giving thought to what they may have to do. (See accompanying press release.)

The scientific experts tell us this novel coronavirus that results in covid-19 is nothing like any influenza virus we’ve ever before seen. It’s more easily transmitted, probably less affected by seasonal temperatures and thus capable of multiple resurgences, and there is no vaccine on the horizon.

So it’s not realistic to compare the 1918 Spanish flu outbreak with covid-19. Nevertheless, it is interesting to see how the harness racing world, including its breeders, had to deal with the 1918 pandemic.

The United States in 1918 was nothing like our lives today. A significant difference, however, was that in 1918 the U.S. was fighting two battles: the Spanish flu and World War I.

The Horseman And Fair World magazine’s predecessor, The Western Horseman, was publishing in 1918 and until that fall the magazine’s only mention of the flu outbreak came when a horseman’s son who was in the military had died.

From January through the first week in October 1918, The Western Horseman’s pages were about breeding horses and racing horses—with the big Grand Circuit meets continuing to take place at state fairs—and the war.

Although the automobile was being used in 1918, the U.S. military’s initial belief that they could rely upon it for war exercises proved to be a mistake. The pages of The Western Horseman told of the cavalry’s need for horses, and how some Thoroughbred stallions had been acquired by the government so they could breed horses that could be used for warfare.

Unlike World War II, World War I did not disrupt racing schedules. But in October, the second influenza outbreak caused race meets to be canceled.

The Kentucky Futurity was contested during the first week of the Fall Trots meet in Lexington, but the second week of

Continues on page 12

Lexington Selected To Offer Online Bidding

The Lexington Selected Yearling Sales Company announced today that it will offer live, online bidding at its annual Selected Yearling Sale, scheduled for Oct. 6-10 at the Fasig-Tipton sales grounds in Lexington, Ky.

The statement read:

As we navigate through this fluid COVID-19 environment, our management team continues to assess the overall situation. With the addition of state-of-the-art online bidding to our live auction format, we continue our vision to create the best marketplace in our industry for our buyers and sellers in 2020 and beyond.

The company is also making additional plans to increase capacity to its current phone bidding service that will allow pre-approved customers to bid through a member of the auction staff for prospective buyers who are not able to attend the on-site auction.

We will carefully evaluate and monitor the health conditions throughout the United States and Canada, as the current stay-at-home orders and travel restrictions in place have delayed our physical inspection appointments. However, as soon as it is safe and practical, we will be reaching out our consignors/breeders to set up appointments for our inspection teams to resume the important inspection process for the class of 2020.

We understand these are trying times and the management of Lexington Selected is committed to remaining flexible while working with its consignors and will attempt to make any adjustments needed to properly preserve “The Lexington Experience.”

This is an unprecedented situation for everyone, and it is important for our industry to work together. Above all, it is our hope that you, your family and your staff are staying safe and healthy through all of this.

As always, please feel free to contact Randy Manges, David Reid or any member of the Lexington Selected staff as we look forward to working with our loyal consignors and buyers during the coming months. (Lexington Selected Sale Company)
the meet was cut short, and a handful of other October and November race meets were canceled.

News in the Nov. 6 edition reported the following from Philadelphia:

“Ideal weather conditions for horse racing prevailed during October, and if the ‘flu’ had not interfered a large number of horsemen would have been in better shape to carry their trotters and pacers through the winter.”

Although race meets were canceled, the Old Glory horse sale at the original Madison Square Garden in New York went on as scheduled Nov. 18-23. Interstate transportation was permitted and brought horses by train from Lexington and California.

Prices were strong at the Old Glory sale, which was a mixed sale of both yearlings and racehorses, but the fall influenza outbreak brought much of American life to a standstill in October, and more than 195,000 Americans died of the flu that month.

Subsequent editions of The Western Horseman carried obituaries of horsemen who died of the flu, but amidst the deadly news came some very good news that surely buoyed the Old Glory sale results. On Nov. 11, just a week before the sale, an armistice was announced, ending World War I.—By Kathy Parker

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**Racing Continues In Sweden, France Discusses May 11 Reopening**

Sweden’s trotting sport has been conducting racing during the covid-19 pandemic, although without fans in attendance. Meanwhile, trotting in the other Scandinavian countries and France have been shut down.

On Tuesday morning, Jean-Pierre Barjon, president of France’s LeTrot, together with the president of the Thoroughbred sport, announced they had presented a plan to France’s government to resume racing on May 11. Racing in the country has been suspended since March 17.

There are obstacles, however, according to Paris Turf. France’s PMU betting company is asking the government to freeze taxation for a period of time. PMU estimated it has lost 220 million euros (about $236 million). There is also discussion of closing some tracks to reduce costs and make sure appropriate health protocols can be followed.

Also of prime concern is that France is still currently under a curfew/shelter-in-place order and 80 percent of PMU’s business takes place in cafes. That affects wagering and purse money available.
Empire Breeders, Confederation Cup postponed
Governor Cuomo’s extension of the New York State on PAUSE order until May 15 will cause the postponement of the Empire Breeders Classic (EBC) trots at Vernon Downs from the scheduled eliminations on May 15 and final on May 25 until a date as yet to be determined.

Hambletonian Society Stake Notes
Please find below is a quick update on some of the Hambletonian Society serviced event payments for 2020: Breeders Crown No. 37 (breedings of 2020; foals of 2021): Breeders Crown No. 37 Stallion Nominations for first-year stallions placed in commercial service (which would not include test breedings) must be paid within 60 days after the stallion first breeds a mare. In no event will any first-year stallion nomination fee be accepted after Dec. 31, 2020.

Phil Langley Memorial update
While plans for funeral or memorial services have not yet been announced for former U.S. Trotting Association president Phil Langley, following is contact information for his wife Margo and the foundation that the family has designated for memorial contributions in his honor. Condolence cards may be sent to Margo Schrack Langley, 382 Redbud Court, Frankfort, Ill. 60423. Memorial contributions may be made to Silver Cross Foundation, Tracy Simons, Executive Director, 1900 Silver Cross Blvd., New Lenox, Ill. 60451; by phone to (815) 300-7105 or email to tsimons@silvercross.org.

SBOANJ mare residency forms available online
The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ) will again offer a resident mare rebate as well as pacing stallion incentive program in 2020.

Virginia Breeders Early-Closer payments delayed
The Virginia Harness Horsemen's Association (VHHA) announced that the deadline to submit sustaining payments for 2 and 3-year-old horses in the Virginia Breeder's Early Closer program, originally due on May 15, has been extended to July 15.

Update on Ontario Racing purse allocation process
On Monday, April 20, Ontario Racing (OR) communicated a few helpful updates to horsepeople in the provincial industry, given that the purse funds re-allocation program has been announced and that applications have begun to be received by OR.

New York tracks to remain closed through May 15
The following letter was issued Monday from the New York State Gaming Commission, which states all racing dates are now suspended through May 15. Here is the letter:

NYSS May events postponed
The New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) announces that it will not race in the month of May due to the state's ongoing COVID-19 response and the announcement this week by Governor Andrew Cuomo that NYS on PAUSE will remain in effect until May 15. This affects six scheduled events for state-bred 3-year-olds in both the top tier Sire Stakes and Excelsior Series.

Haight named USTA District 8 chairman
Todd Haight, who is the director and general manager of live racing at Batavia Downs, was named the interim chairman of United States Trotting Association District 8 region on Friday, Apr. 17. Haight will replace longtime District 8 chairman Michael Kane, who resigned earlier this year.

Former New Jersey trainer Paul Gately dies
Paul Gately, of Manasquan, N.J., passed away at home on Sunday, April 19, with his loving wife Mary Ann by his side. He was 76. Mr. Gately was able to segue his own love for running to training racehorses as a successful trainer and owner of Standardbreds, racing at tracks up and down the East Coast, as well as close to home at the Meadowlands and Freehold Raceway.

Cameo Hills Farms’ Marie Jones, 96, dies
Marie Jones, 96, of Montgomery, N.Y., died April 18, with her loving family at her side. Marie Buck and Harness Racing Hall of Famer Hal Jones were married in 1950, a union that lasted 65 years, until his passing in 2015.

SBOANJ postpones annual golf tournament
The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey’s 25th annual Golf Outing that was scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, has been postponed until further notice.

Trot And Pace Marketing offering free race replays
While we’re all nervously stuck inside and looking forward to brighter days, we invite you to take some pressure off, relax, and watch some race replays. Trot and Pace Marketing has filmed over 1,000 races from the past three years of Ohio fair racing.