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Friday, April 10, 2020

Suspend second trainers in barns where there is a major PED positive and also scrap qualifiers

So explains multi-talented horseman and common-sense sage Ray Schnittker.

by Dave Briggs

WHAT DOES RAY SAY?



with **RAY SCHNITTKER**

(Editor's note: Condolences to Ray Schnittker and his family on the death of his father, Warren, on Wednesday at age 91).

Ray Schnittker had two burning issues on his mind this week. He said it's time to get rid of qualifiers and also time second trainers serve lengthy suspensions if their bosses get nailed for major Performance Enhancing Drug (PED) positives.

On the latter, Schnittker said second trainers that don't blow the whistle on bosses that are cheating need to also serve lengthy suspensions if they keep quiet about what's going on in the barn.

"I think we should have a rule that if a trainer goes down, say for two years... their second trainers automatically get a year, too, because they didn't say anything," Schnittker said. "Maybe people will start stepping up."

"This has to be an integrity game... So, they get a year, too. Then they'd be accountable, too. Now, no one is accountable."

As for scrapping qualifiers, Schnittker said it's long overdue. The process has limited value and creates unnecessary

In today's HRU

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Cushing goes from gridiron to racetrack glory **page 8**

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expense for horse owners.

"I think we should be doing away with qualifiers except, maybe, one time for 2-year-olds," Schnittker said. "In France, they have one line for their career... and they bet more money there on harness racing than anywhere in the world."

Schnittker said harness racing needs to follow the thoroughbred model of reporting workout times.

"I just trained a bunch of 3-year-olds in :56 at Goshen. What's wrong with me just reporting that so they can put it in the program? The thoroughbreds do that, they just call it in and they tell them, 'Okay, I worked the horse in :48.1 for four furlongs' or blah, blah, blah.' They write it down and it's in the program. Away they go.

"No, I've got to go to Pocono Downs, it's going to cost that owner \$300 or \$400 for me to get that horse shipped to Pocono. It's an hour-and-a-half away, an hour-and-a-half home. I've got to get somebody to warm the horse up or me go with the horse and have a groom look after the horse... It's a whole, total waste of time to me and a waste of money.

"I had an old trotter. I took him to Yonkers before they shut down. I qualified him in :59. He's got to go like :56 for his race. So for his :59 qualifier, I go down there early, because Yonkers you never know what the traffic will be like. It's like

a six-hour deal to get a :59 qualifying mile in him. I said, 'This is stupid.'

Schnittker said the problem is going to be even more acute when racing resumes after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides and thousands of horses will need to qualify.

"After COVID-19, we're going to have like 5,000 horses qualifying for opening week when they open these tracks up," he said.

"Most tracks, they don't even want to have qualifiers anymore, either. It's not like years ago when everybody was stabled at the track. It was no big deal then. Now, three-quarters of the tracks you've got to ship in to qualify."

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Thoughts on racing 2-year-olds, what to do with babies in training when there is no racing and the trainer handed a 34-year suspension

by Ron Gurfein

Tidbits: My sincerest condolences to Ray Schnittker and his family on the passing of his dad Warren. There are few finer gentlemen in our sport than Warren Schnittker and he will be missed by all of us.

* * *

It didn't take long. A month has passed since the FBI indicted 29 men and women for various nefarious acts involving racehorses. Due to the virus, the timetable has been pushed back to at least September when there will be any exacting results.

* * *

Bobby Martinez (no relation to the guy who's white cowboy hat is often seen floating in some Canadian lake or other) has just received eight class I positives for Ostarine (Enobosarm) a drug known as a successful muscle builder that is not approved for humans or horses by the FDA. Two were post-race and six were out of competition testing. Martinez a famous trainer of quarter horses was handed a 34-year suspension and a \$480,000 fine by the New Mexico Racing Commission. I love those numbers.

Do you think our bandits would be playing with EPO if we could make those numbers stick?

All of the Martinez positives came in a 10-day span last July at Ruidoso Downs home to The All American Futurity.

The best is, it seems when Martinez was confronted by reporters he claimed he was simply a "paper" trainer and that he never even saw the horses in question, it was someone else. Stay tuned for the rest of the story.

* * *

A few weeks ago I wrote about workman's compensation as the bane of the horseman's existence. Well just when you think things cannot get any worse, the California Workman's Comp Fund comes up with a shortfall to the tune of a surcharge to all horsemen of \$1,233 per horse for all horses in training in the state of California in the first quarter of 2020. To an outfit like Ron Burke, that would be a surcharge of over \$250,000. And you're worried about April stake payments.

* * *

There are few drivers that I was closer to in my career than Walter Case. To say he was a great reinsman is an understatement.

Last week he said on social media that he would love to drive again but he was afraid he would make a fool of himself.

To me that's like saying Tom Brady will make a fool of himself playing for Tampa Bay. Casey, if you are listening, go for it, you can't miss. No one that great could ever be bad.

Rich Johnson asks: I have read many articles recently by people that suggest it would be wonderful if we eliminated 2-year-old races and how it would improve the image of the sport. What is your take on the matter?

I have to hold my tongue to be polite because to me there is no idea I have ever heard that is more ridiculous.

The advertisement has a blue background with white and red text. At the top, it says "HRU WANTS YOUR BEST FOAL PHOTOS FOR OUR NEW FEATURE" in a bold, sans-serif font. In the center is a photograph of a brown foal with a white blaze on its face. Below the photo, the words "Foal of the Week" are written in a large, stylized, red font with a white outline. At the bottom, there is a block of text: "SEND PHOTOS AND AS MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOAL & FAMILY AS POSSIBLE TO: DAVE BRIGGS · HRUEDITOR@GMAIL.COM". To the right of this text is a logo for "HRU HARNESS RACING UPDATE" featuring a silhouette of a horse and jockey.

The most exciting part of racing standardbred horses is the 2-year-old year. Don't get me wrong, I love some 3-year-old events such as the Hambletonian and Oaks, the Kentucky Futurity, the Jug, Meadowlands Pace and the NA Cup, but every 2-year-old race to me is great no matter how big or small because we are constantly seeing the birth of tomorrow's stars.

I don't know of many that will ever forget Snow White at the Red Mile, or even the first qualifying race of Greenshoe.

Let's put the esthetics aside and look at the financial picture. Anyone in favor of this idea must realize that it changes the entire financial dynamic of the sport. You now have a one-year gap lot feed and caring that someone has to foot the bill for. I seriously doubt we would attract many owners that are willing to buy a yearling in September and wait 20 months to race. The thought is beyond the pale.

If the sales were later, where would the average farm get the room to store an entire crop of yearlings for any period of time? Remember, three months after the yearlings sell now the foals start coming.

I don't know why I answered this question because it is so far out there I get upset that anyone could even imagine it.

Joel Kravet asks: How many of today's trainers would know how to put a pair of elbow boots on a horse?

Funny question and purely as a guess I would say not many. I am sure any trotting horse trainer over the age of 60 would have little problem but the younger ones were most likely never exposed to horses that hit their elbows as the gait of the trotting horse has radically changed in the last 10 years. Are there still those that need them? Of course, but they are few and far between.

I have a story about elbow boots that is interesting, though. It was more than 30 years ago and late afternoon and I

was puttering around my barn at the Meadowlands waiting to go race my horses when the loudspeaker squawks, "Ron Gurfein come to the paddock immediately."

Now I am in my barn, my horses and caretakers have not even left yet for the races. What in the world would they want me for?

I jump in my golf cart and arrive at the paddock where Ted the paddock judge is standing in the middle of the doorway pointing to a guy with his hands loaded with a conglomeration of equipment.

There before my eyes stood Monte Gelrod with his hands entangled in elbow boots.

"I sure hope you can put these dam things on because I don't have a clue," was my greeting. Well I gave him my Elbow Boot 101 lesson but that didn't go too well as I was recalled a week later to perform the same operation.

Don't be hard on Monte it really is a task to put them on correctly.

Havana Persson (Swedish sports director from Roback) asks: Do you remember Share The Promise? She has won the elite mare year award and I was wondering if you could tell me about her.

Share The Promise was moved to my barn early in her 2-year-old year by my friend and patron Bob Waxman. She won The Review in Springfield in 1:56.3 and was second to another filly of mine Bella Verde in the Hayes at DuQuoin in 1:55. Those were her only good starts. When she got to the Red Mile she was sore, and I turned her out shortly thereafter. At 3, soundness and tying up prevailed and she hit the board in many starts, but she was difficult to drive because of her problems.

She definitely had ability in those days. A 1:55 2-year-old was a valuable commodity, plus she had a fabulous pedigree.



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It doesn't surprise me at all that she has become a noteworthy broodmare. Please inform as to her further successes, as well as the training next year of the colt recently delivered by Delicious.

Some trainers have called and emailed me asking what to do with the babies in training.

I am not sure anyone can answer that question accurately at this point in time. One thing is certain, we all know how soft their bones are at this time of year, so right now let discretion be the better part of valor and don't speed.

No matter what you do now, as long as you stay within reason you will not change the eventual ability of a colt. However, I do not suggest any long turnout period because many will quickly forget what you have spent six months teaching them and/or will get in some bad habits. Repetition is a wonderful thing when it comes to horse training.

It's not necessary to train 2:15 every week, but I wouldn't go three weeks without a reasonably quick work.

I refuse to speculate as to when you will race again. There have been rumors in New Jersey that May 1 is a target date, but being front and center in the pandemic fight I find it difficult to see a resumption in New Jersey before some of the states less infected.

That said, never underestimate the power and relentless drive of Jeff Gural and his team. I have seen a never ending string of miracles from that corner.

I will assume there will be pressure to get the industry back rolling before we go to church or the movies, but that is yet to be accomplished.

I do know that the Meadowlands is researching ways to bring empty stands racing back ASAP as I am sure many other venues that I am not familiar with are doing.

Be positive, there is a light at the end of the tunnel and whatever is in the cards hopefully it will be the best for all of us.

Tom Santoro asks: In the book the Care and Training of the Trotter and Pacer a trainer mentions that he did not like a white footed horse, yet I saw where Casie Coleman said she liked white on a horse. What are the pros and cons?

To begin with, there is some fact to the idea that white footed horse will give you more problems than horses that have no white. I personally find that white feet are more prone to quarter cracks, take longer for injuries to heal, and are more prone to skin irritation.

That said, I would still buy a white footed horse if I truly loved him.

As for Casie Coleman, I really don't like to speak for her or anyone else for that matter, but I doubt she was quoted in regard to white feet.

Casie is a promoter of her own stallions and the flavor of the day is Betting Line. My first comments about the Betting Line foals was they looked a lot like Golden Money Makers, a stallion of my youth that was black with a lot of white. As some would say, has too much chrome.

Most of these theories are old wives tales and it seems to me that the older horseman stick to these ideas way more often than the younger ones do.

To sum it up I myself have had a very hard time with trotters that were white where they interfered but have had no problem with any white area that was not compromised.

This reminds me of a guy that asked me why there are very few good chestnut colts. My answer is because there are none. If you look at the Harrisburg sale from last November they sold over 1,000 yearlings and only one was a chestnut.

My advice: if you love a horse, buy it. The white will look great in the winner's circle.

Jeff Cantine asks: Please discuss your routine for tie up horses when you are stabled on the grounds of a racetrack?

That's an easy question to answer as I have spent 99 per cent of my time as a trainer on the grounds of a racetrack. However, my answer will create a myriad of negative feedback as very few horseman agree with my theories on the matter.

I relate tying up to getting severe cramps as in basketball or swimming. What does the athlete do? Certainly doesn't exercise.

Therefore, I suggest first leaving the horse in the stall for a minimum of 48 hours and give plenty of fluids as well as some pain killer and muscle relaxer. Most horses will be fine, but hand walk and then double jog (go one or two miles and then go back two hours later and do it again) just to be safe and then drive on.

I have had a few very difficult cases where I had to resort to more stringent methods like training a 2:45 mile every day. This would represent the rarest of scenarios.

One more tip on this subject: Please don't let the blood parameters that come back from the blood labs make you crazy. The numbers they have decided on for proper range for SGOT and CPK are way lower than many horses will perform perfectly under. Know your animal and be guided by the parameters he shows you are best for him. There are horses that are severely tied up at 750 and those that are fine at 1800.

Thanks to all of you for the kind words and please keep the questions coming in. Have a wonderful week and STAY SAFE.

Have a question for The Guru?
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Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Friday, October 23

Final Sustaining Payment - \$600 -- due May 15

Entrance Fee: \$5,000

THE ELEVATION

-\$125,000 Est. in 2020-

-\$500-

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-\$500-

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Entrance Fee: \$1,500

MADISON COUNTY (for 2-year-olds)

-\$70,000 Est. in 2020-

-\$300-

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

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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

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Canada's new Clenbuterol restrictions "disappointing" says Tropea

by Bill Finley

New rules backed by thoroughbred interests regarding Clenbuterol use in Canada will cause unnecessary problems for standardbred owners and trainers, said Brian Tropea, the general manager of the Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA).

Last week, the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA) posted updated rules on its website that banned the use of Clenbuterol throughout the country within 28 days of a horse starting. Prior to the change, Clenbuterol could not be given to a horse within seven days of racing. The new rule covers both thoroughbreds and standardbreds. The drug had already been banned in quarter horse racing.

In both the U.S. and Canada, many racing officials have argued that Clenbuterol is a necessary medication to combat respiratory problems and allergies and that lumping both breeds together when making medication rules failed to acknowledge the difference between standardbreds and thoroughbreds.

"Clenbuterol has been a very effective treatment for horses with breathing issues," Tropea said. "This is something that came from the thoroughbred industry. Certain high-profile trainers were calling for, basically, getting rid of it. Being able to use it only 28 days out is impractical with standardbreds when we normally race on a week-to-week basis. The 28 days means that, effectively, you can't use it at all with a standardbreds. It's very disappointing."

Jim Whelan, the president of OHHA, echoed Tropea's sentiments.

"It helps to clean up a horse's lungs," he said. "To me, it didn't appear to be a performance-enhancing medication. It

was a product that worked, otherwise it wouldn't have been so popular. The 28 days makes it impossible for us in standardbred industry to use it. Our horses average a start every 7 to 10 days, so this totally eliminates it as an option for treating respiratory problems. Hopefully, they can find something else to treat those horses."

The fight against Clenbuterol was led by Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame member Mark Casse. The thoroughbred trainer called it the most abused drug in the industry and called for a total ban. His efforts to curb the use of Clenbuterol were backed by Woodbine Entertainment and the thoroughbred horsemen's group, the HBPA of Ontario. Casse claimed that thoroughbred trainers were abusing the drug because it has steroid-like affects and could help a horse build muscle mass.

"The premise of horses receiving medication for anything other than its proper therapeutic use is not in the best interests of our industry or in the best interests of the horse," said Ontario HBPA president Sue Leslie, who was just named to the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame as part of the thoroughbred class of 2020. "While the vast, vast majority of horsepeople and veterinarians work together to use medication wisely, you always have the outliers. We as an industry can't afford to let this go on anymore. The way we handle animal welfare and the public image of racing has to improve. To me, this is just one small part of it. There is more that we have to do."

The United States Trotting Association (USTA) has been among the standardbred industry groups pushing back against efforts to curb Clenbuterol use. The USTA has lobbied to allow trainers to use it within four days of a race. They, like others, maintain that it is impractical to have the same rules for standardbred racing, where horses often race once a week, and thoroughbred racing, where a typical horse might have five or six weeks off between races.

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March							April						
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26	27	28	29	30	31		30						

Whelan doesn't agree with Leslie, saying that it is prudent and humane to give a horse with breathing problems a drug that can help them.

"If you have a medication that you know works to treat an ailment a horse has, especially a respiratory problem, why wouldn't you use it?" he said. "They are exposed to dust on the track and dust in the barns. They have allergies and that affects their performances. These are athletes, not pleasure horses that aren't fully exerting themselves. You have to keep them healthy and if they have respiratory problems you have to be able to treat them. I think it's more humane to treat them than try to race them when they are in pain or in respiratory distress."

The medication rules in the U.S. still vary from state to state, but Casse has predicted that many jurisdictions will follow Canada's lead and tighten the rules regarding the drug.

Trainer Anthony McDonald didn't have a strong opinion about the rule change because, he said, he never uses Clenbuterol. The penalties for anyone who gets caught outside the approved withdrawal times are severe and McDonald said it wasn't worth having it around the barn and risking the wrong horse inadvertently getting the drug.

"As an industry we've moved away from a lot of the medications that are supposed to help with allergies or breathing issues and I think it's probably better for industry," he said. "Over the past four years we have had horses that have had allergies or complications from allergies in July or early August and it's a real problem combating that. Instead of looking for medications to combat that issue with our young horses we've decided we would just stop on them. There's no way to race a young horse through severe allergies."

Trainer Bob McIntosh also said he did not use Clenbuterol out of fear that it would lead to a drug positive. He argued that the regulators need to stop focusing on what he sees as relatively minor drug issue and try to crack down on more serious matters.

"You have all these other drugs they can't test for that are the real performance-enhancers and they're coming down on Clenbuterol of all things," he said. "They have bigger fish to fry than this. I think they are on the wrong path. Put more research into catching guys with the EPO drugs. That's where they should be looking."

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GRASSROOTS PERSPECTIVE



with **CHRIS LOMON**

Cushing goes from gridiron to racetrack glory

Maine native Mitchell Cushing is making a name for himself on the track now that his football days are over.

by **Chris Lomon**

Mitchell Cushing's pursuit of gridiron glory took a hit, but with standardbred racing, he wouldn't be foiled again.

He remembers the moment as if it happened yesterday.

It was during his junior year of high school when Cushing, on pace to break several football records in Maine, tore his ACL in a crucial game against a long-time state rival.

After he absorbed the hit, the Lawrence High running back (he also played linebacker) knew the injury was serious.

Maine



He also knew what it likely meant.

"I tore it in the last game of the regular season, and we were going to the playoffs... I had worked the entire off-season," said Cushing. "I had never worked so hard in my entire life, the whole six or seven months we weren't playing football – I had taken that commitment to a whole new level. I just couldn't stop crying when it happened. I had never cried like that in my life. It was the first time that I realized that no matter how hard you work, there are things that you can't control."

What he could control, however, was directing his energies into another passion.

Cushing, whose father, uncle, aunt, grandfather, great-uncle and great-grandparents all have ties to standardbred racing, also had an affinity for horses and the sport.

Even during his football days, he always found time to spend time around the horses his father, driver/trainer Ron, and uncle, driver/trainer Mike, were associated with.



Mitchell Cushing driving the legendary Foiled Again to victory on Sept. 3, 2018 in the Au Revoir Pace at the Windsor Fair in Maine.

“Football, I really love it, just like a lot of kids do and I worked hard at it,” said Cushing. “At the end of the day, when I walked out of the school or the gym in the summer, I was always going back to the horses. I would do what I needed to do at the gym, and do it the right way, in preparing for football. I was dedicated to football, but I was always finding ways to spend as much time as I could with the horses.”

Fascination with harness racing would eventually into pursuit of a full-time career in the sport.

In 2014, Cushing drove in 15 races, winning four and posting nine top-three finishes. The following year, he posted three victories in 35 starts, going on to make 42 trips to the winner’s circle in 2016.

A jump to 92 victories the following year was proceeded by a breakout campaign in 2018, one that saw Cushing win 247 races.

There wasn’t one moment that sparked the surge in victories, but rather, according to Cushing, a few pivotal events that launched him into the standardbred spotlight.

The first came courtesy of a now 13-year-old son of Badlands Hanover.

“I think the first game-changing moment was the time I really figured out what I was doing and how do it the best possible way I could. I had to lot to learn. I was 18, and my dad and I had a horse we owned, Amazing Quest. He’s actually still going on and is closing in on 100 career wins. We bought him out of Monticello. He’s just a good, classy horse. We got him for \$2,400, and we had him from the \$3,000 claimers to the \$7,500 claimers, up in Maine, at Plainridge. I started to learn to drive the race with him, not just drive the horse, and learning how to react to all different situations within a race.

“He would teach me and took care of me. I was able to gain confidence from him. If I read the race and thought, ‘Okay... I’m going to be first over today,’ we might be clear on the backside because the other guys used hard, and we were able to capitalize on that. Other times, it might be, ‘Shoot, no one is leaving today, so I’m going to get this guy off the car.’ I’d put him on the lead and he’d win the race. He allowed me to learn how to react, and it gave me the confidence that when I’d do something, he’d respond. He gave me that first idea that maybe I’m not a fish out of water, and I can do this because it’s something I care about.”

Another career-changing moment came when Cushing connected with veteran trainer Jimmy Nickerson.

It was just ahead of the 2018 Plainridge Park racing season when the young reinsman met the New York-based



Cushing was delighted to be in the winner’s circle with the great Foiled Again and members of the Burke Brigade.

horseman.

“I’d been driving for my uncle when the meet started, and the drivers really hadn’t started coming in yet,” said Cushing. “There were only three or four guys that were considered catch drivers. There were more trainers than drivers. Guys started looking around at the drivers and making their choices. I was fortunate enough to start picking up horses for Jimmy. There was a horse by the name of Sports Lightning, who was in a \$12,500 claimer series. Jimmy said, ‘Kid, this is a tough horse to drive. He doesn’t steer well and he doesn’t make up ground in the turns, but he’s classified.’ I couldn’t lose with the horse. We’d get away last in a nine-horse field every week and he won the series. This horse made me feel like I could do that sort of thing again.”

And that’s precisely what Cushing did.

His 2018 campaign was a bona fide thrill ride, including the opportunity to sit behind one of the sport’s all-time great pacers.

He drove Foiled Again to victory in a Farewell Tour race at Windsor Fair (Maine), won a Massachusetts Sire Stakes title

with I'm A Clown, and was second to Dan Patch Award-winner Shartin N with Apple Bottom Jeans in the TVG Series championship for female pacers.

"Throughout that 2018 season, Plainridge was wonderful to me. I was really fortunate and got to drive Foiled Again. That was followed by me going to The Meadowlands – Jimmy had asked me to go because everyone was gone for Breeders Crown at Pocono – and Shannon Murphy, Ron (Burke's) second trainer in New Jersey, took my phone number after I drove Foiled Again.

"I texted him to let him know I was coming to The Meadowlands for the weekend, and if I could come hang out at the barn to kill time, I'd really appreciate it. He said that would be great because they needed to train and get horses ready for the Breeders Crown. He texted me back after that and said that Ron had put me on everything for that weekend at The Meadowlands. I ended up winning four races, in about 15 starts, that weekend. That makes me you feel good. Just getting to go there and win multiple races when I had one win in about 35 starts there the year before... that was a huge moment for me. It made you feel like you were going somewhere, where you had always aspired to be."

And now that he's there, Cushing, who won 212 races last year, isn't about to rest on his laurels.

He'll also continue to take the lessons learned on the football field and apply them to his life in the sulky.

"The first connection between the two sports would be reaction, the ability to read things quickly and react to it. As both a running back and a linebacker, you are either reading the offensive line or defensive line, and you need to react as quickly as possible, and faster than the guy across from you. If you can get to the hole first, either as a running back or linebacker, it can make all the difference on the outcome. It's the same thing when it comes to horse racing. Whether you're coming from the back of the pack, or when you leave the gate, you're trying to be one step ahead, mentally, you are looking to make the right decision in the moment to get the advantage. I had never thought of it that way until now."

He's glad he did.

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USTA 2020 Annual Meeting, held via teleconference, concludes

Joe Faraldo voted new chairman of the board.

by USTA communications department

The 2020 U.S. Trotting Association Board of Directors Annual Meeting, which was conducted through a series of teleconferences, concluded Thursday (April 9) with the closing session of the full board. Among the highlights of the annual meeting were the election of some new officers, approval of the 2020 budget as well as new rules that will take effect on May 1 plus the announcement of a new location for the 2021 annual meeting.

Teleconferences were required for all committee and board meetings after the COVID-19 outbreak forced the cancellation of the meetings that were scheduled for March 13-16 in Columbus, OH. Following is the schedule of the meetings that were held during the past two weeks: Racing and Registration Committees on Tuesday (March 31); Rules Committee on Thursday (April 2); Finance Committee on Friday (April 3); Executive Committee on Tuesday (April 7) with the annual meeting concluding with the full Board of Directors general session on Thursday (April 9).

Following are the results of the officers' elections: In the election of the new chairman of the board, District 8A Chairman Joe Faraldo defeated District 9 Chairman Don Marean, who abdicated his USTA vice-chairman position to run. Faraldo replaces District 3 Chairman Ivan Axelrod, who didn't seek re-election. District 7 Director Mark Loewe defeated District 4 Chairman Gabe Wand for vice-chairman and District 5 Director Jim Miller defeated District 1 Director Donald "Skip" Hoovler for treasurer.

Sally Stauffer was unopposed as secretary while President Russell Williams, whose term expires in 2023, remains in that position.

Among the newly adopted rules were: **Rule 4.70 Gene Doping**– prohibiting the non-therapeutic use of gene therapy to improve performance, **Rule 5.19 Racetrack Maintenance**– that sets specific standards for staffing, grading, material for surface cushion and conditioning of the track at all extended pari-mutuel tracks with the requirement that racetrack operators must ensure that those standards are maintained, and **Rule 17.07 Contents of Application for Trainer's License**– that effective Jan. 1, 2021 will require new trainer applicants to be a USTA member and to show evidence of at least three consecutive years of experience as a groom or trainer licensed by a state racing commission or be issued a Limited license.

These approved regulations will now be circulated to the various racing commissions and to the Association of Racing Commissioners International for adoption into their model rules.

To see the complete list of rule changes, click [here](#).

In his concluding remarks, USTA President Russell Williams discussed the difficult times that the harness racing industry and its participants are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"At the end of our meetings I always like to say what (former USTA President) Corwin Nixon used to say, 'This is the best meeting we've ever had,'" said President Russell Williams.

"When we look at the present landscape, it's tempting to say that this was the worst meeting we've ever had. Almost our entire sport is shut down. It is not too much to say that death walks among us. But that's not the whole story, at all," added Williams.

"The United States Trotting Association Board of Directors and staff have conducted themselves with courage, with wisdom, with dedication, and with compassion. I consider it a true privilege to be associated with you all.

"The spirit that we have shown makes this, by far, the best meeting that we've ever had. Let us go forward in this spirit. We shall find a way to win," concluded Williams.

Outgoing Chairman Ivan Axelrod closed the meeting by announcing that the 2021 annual meeting will be held March 12-15 in Columbus, OH at a new location, the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square located downtown at 75 East State Street.

New York



Liberty Driving Park: The track that time forgot

There once was a harness track in my backyard.

by Bill Heller

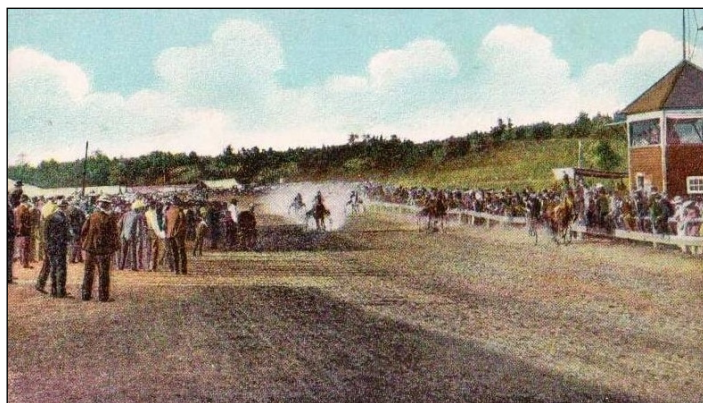
So how, exactly, have I written about harness racing all my life and not known about a racetrack that was just a mile away from my house?

Two reasons: The track operated for several years after opening in 1902, and while I admit to being old at 67, I'm not that old. Secondly, Liberty Driving Park is the track that time forgot.

Liberty, NY, 90 miles northwest of New York City, is in Sullivan County, the heart of the Borscht Belt, also referred to as the Catskills, a summer destination for New York City, Long Island and New Jersey residents. Those who could afford to stayed in lavish hotels, such as world-famous Grossinger's just outside Liberty. At its peak in the 1950s, Grossinger's 35 buildings over 1,200 acres served as many as 150,000 guests per year. It was the first resort in the world to offer artificial snow for skiers, and its ice rink was the site of the World Barrell Jumping Championships covered on TV's Wide World of Sports.

Other prominent hotels in the area included the Concord in Kiamesha Lake just outside Monticello, Kutsher's outside Monticello and the Nevele in Ellenville. Lou Resnick, a native of Ellenville, co-owned world champion Trotter Nevele Pride with Stanley Dancer. The Nevele is the backward spelling of eleven, which was the number of mineral springs in Ellenville which attracted health-minded tourists.

At one time, there were well over 100 hotels in the Catskills in its peak in the 1950s and 1960s. Dozens of famous comedians got their start in the Catskills, including Jerry Lewis, whose favorite hotel, Brown's, was near Loch



Sheldrake five minutes from Liberty.

The roster of comedians who either started their careers or performed regularly in the Borscht Belt read like a Comedy Hall of Fame: Woody Allen, Morey Amsterdam, Milton Berle, Mel Brooks, Lenny Bruce, George Burns, Red Buttons, Sid Caesar, Jean Carroll, Myron Cohen, Rodney Dangerfield, Phyllis Diller, Tobe Fields, George Gobel, Shecky Green, Buddy Hackett, Danny Kaye, Alan King, Sam Levenson, Jackie Mason, Carl Reiner, Don Rickles, Joan Rivers, Freddie Roman, Alan Sherman, Jackie Vernon, Jonathan Winters and Henny Youngman.

Less affluent tourists would flock to hundreds of bungalow colonies throughout Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess and Orange Counties. As I grew up, the population in Liberty of 4,000 to 4,500 would swell to tens of thousands between Memorial Day and Labor Day. My family's Triangle Diner right opposite the entrance to Grossinger's was one of the beneficiaries.

Finding activities for all those visitors helped create Monticello Raceway, which is where I got my first taste of horse racing, a wonderful addiction that shaped my career and my life.

I had no idea that when Monticello Raceway opened, June 27th, 1958, it was more than a half-century after Liberty Driving Park closed.

The impetus for opening Liberty Driving Park was the same one as the reason for creating Monticello Raceway. A group of hotel and boarding house owners looking for entertainment for their guests formed the Liberty Driving Park Association in 1901. J.C. Young was the president.



Harness Racing Update on Instagram

@HARNESSRACINGUPDATE



The group purchased 40 acres of land, a portion of a farm owned by Harley Young, one of the first settlers in the area.

Construction of the track began on Oct. 10, 1901, and finished in the summer of 1902. The track became part of the Hudson and Mohawk Valley Circuit. Horses occupying the 10 stables came from Albany, Utica, Elmira, Poughkeepsie, Binghamton, Rome and Schenectady.

The eight-to-nine week racing season lasted from late June or early July through August.

In April, 1903, the stables were increased to 50 and grandstands were enlarged to handle as many as 1,000 people. According to the *Liberty Register* newspaper, 2,500 people watched racing the afternoon of June 5, 1903. Most of the fans came from the hotels and boarding houses in the area.

A post card of the track, featuring the photo of a race in progress taken by Otto Hillig, whose studio was in Liberty, showed an actual race on Aug. 18, 1904, and listed entries for three races, one with six horses and a pair with seven. Fans are lined up watching the race from both sides, the infield and the grandstand area. Several local advertisers had ads on the race page, including Howard Hats and Walkover Shoes, Lake Olympia, the New York Ontario & Western Railroad offering special excursions to the World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri; Dreamland, Liberty House and Mansion House and Blossom Club.

Financial problems shuttered the track after several years, and the property was sold to Sullivan County National Bank by a foreclosure on Aug. 28, 1911.

In March of 1936, Willie Tuchman acquired the property and built a farm, one he and his family lived on until 1964 when Grossinger Realty Corporation purchased the property, using it to develop a portion of the hotel's golf course. One of the long, narrow stables at the track survived and was used as a maintenance building for the golf course.

Liberty native Bobby Gerow, whose family owned a gas station in Liberty, remembers hearing about the track when he was a teenager. "When Grossinger's was planning on expanding its golf course, my Uncle Tom showed my cousin Muggs and me where there had been a racetrack," he said. "Muggs and I were about 14 or 15. The track was somewhere near the area around the fifth, sixth and seventh holes, where there was a little lake. That's all I knew about the track."



Ground was broken for the Liberty Driving Park Association track on October 10, 1901, with completion ceremoniously taking place in 1902. The track, "laid out by Civil Engineer Mills of Goshen, was 'regulation,' with two stretches, having a minimum width of fifty feet, while the home stretch was sixty feet wide." In August 1904, the management of the track supplemented its income by selling advertising space on the racing card to various Liberty hotels as well as the New York, Ontario and Western Railway. Photograph by Otto Hillig

HOWARD HATS and WALKOVER SHOES DEFY COMPETITION. Young, Hatcher and Dodge.		LAKE OPHELIA Liberty, N. Y. Dancing every Tuesday & Friday Even Boating, Bowling, Pool & Billiards W. R. Cook, Prop.		New York Ontario & Western R. R. Special Excursion World's Fair Lowest Rates of the Year Wednesday Sept. 21st Special Through Ticket to St. Louis, Mo., via and Pullman sleeping Cars to St. Louis																																																																																					
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<p>THIS CHECK AND FIVE CENTS GOOD FOR ONE "DREAMLAND" STANDARD 10-CENT CIGARETTE. SEARS & ROEBUCK, PHARMACISTS, Liberty, N. Y.</p> <p>After the Races go to the LIBERTY HOUSE, Cafe embraces only Best Wines, Liquors and Cigars. New features in Billiard, Pool and Keno-like Tables and Shuffle Boards. L. R. GORDON, Prop. J. A. GORDON, Mgr.</p> <p>MANSION HOUSE FOR BLOSSOM CLUB WM. MURPHY, PROP.</p>																																																																																									

The Catskills began to die through the '70s as people found bundles of other options for their vacations. Where once there were more than 100 hotels, now there are fewer than 10.

Though Grossinger's Hotel closed in 1986, its golf-course stayed open until 2017. The clubhouse was demolished in 2018.

But there was a track there once, a track that time forgot.

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Ohio



Racing reflections with Mike Wilder

by Ken Weingartner / USTA media relations manager

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.

"He said he would let me jog," Wilder said. "He told me he was going to let me jog Yukon Knox."

Wilder momentarily had second thoughts.

"Yukon Knox was probably the heaviest headed horse we had in the barn," Wilder said. "He was a big puller. I had seen the men out there with him, and I thought he had to be kidding me. I told him, 'I'm not jogging him.' He said, 'Then you don't want to jog.' I thought to myself, well, I want to jog, so I'm going to do it."

"The crazy thing about it, I took that horse out and he never grabbed on. It was amazing. It was like he knew a kid was behind him. I think they get a feel, maybe the way you talk to them or the way they feel the lines in your hands. He just knew. He kept me safe."

"I came back in and I was laughing. (The others) were in awe and couldn't believe the horse jogged that way. It was just something crazy."

Such was the unofficial start of a career that has seen Wilder go on to win 8,229 races.

"I got into this sport because of my stepfather," Wilder said. "When I got to be about 8 years old, I just fell in love with the horses. It was just one of those things. All I wanted to do was race horses. All I wanted to do was be a driver. He helped me pursue that dream and got me started."

The family was based at the Shelby County Fairgrounds in Sidney, OH, usually with a stable of 15 to 20 horses. Wilder followed Ritter and his mom, Rhonda, to the county fairs and Lebanon Raceway.

"The fairs were big for them," Wilder said. "I can remember being in the center field when our horses were racing. They'd be coming off the last turn and we'd be running in the center field just screaming like crazy, running with the horses."

"My parents did well around the fairs. I remember how exciting it was to get our picture taken with our parents in the winner's circle and running across the track to get there. They used to call me and my little brother Ritter's Critters. They'd say, here comes Ritter's Critters across the track. You couldn't wait to get to the next fair. You could imagine yourself being in the sulky, that being you someday."

At the age of 12, Wilder trained his first horse, going a mile



Dave Landry

Mike Wilder racing in his native Ohio during the 2018 Little Brown Jug.

in 2:21 with pacer B D's Rebeck at Latonia in northern Kentucky. About the same time, he started warming up horses at Lebanon Raceway.

"I was warming up horses, not only for my parents but for other stables," Wilder said. "I just wanted to be out there so bad. Just to get out there under the lights, here I am, this little 90-pound guy that looks like I'm in about the fourth grade, warming up horses for these different stables. They knew my parents and they knew how much I was involved and wanting to do it."

"It's crazy that they would give me the opportunity, but it was great. I loved getting out of school and getting down there to do that."

Wilder began driving in matinees at the age of 14 and got his first raceway win at 18 at Lebanon, bringing home a 39-1 shot named C H S Cress, who was trained by his parents.

"I had the rail, got away second, and sat the inside," Wilder said. "In the last turn I thought I was never getting free, but I was in the fight and the adrenaline was pumping and I was excited. Then the floodgates opened, and I found room to get through. I won by like half-a-length. I thought I'd won the Little Brown Jug that day. I was on cloud nine. That win has stuck with me forever."

Wilder won 13 driving titles at Lebanon and two at Scioto Downs before moving to The Meadows in western Pennsylvania in 2001.

"I was blessed enough that when I graduated high school, I got tied into some pretty nice stables that gave me the opportunity to try to be a driver," Wilder said. "It worked out great. There's such a list of people that helped me along the way."

Over the past 10 years, Wilder has annually ranked among the top-five drivers at The Meadows in wins and purses. Four times in the past six years he has finished second to perennial Meadows driving champ Dave Palone in wins.

This season, he was second in wins at The Meadows with 86 and first in purses with \$784,432 when racing was

suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also had 10 wins at Northfield Park and his 96 total victories were tied for seventh in North America.

He won 380 races in 2019, the second-best season of his career.

"I didn't want (2019) to end, but boy did it take off like a fireball in 2020," Wilder said. "I've got great barns to drive for, I can't ask for anything more. I can't wait to get back to it. I'm

just hoping everybody stays healthy and safe and when the time is right, we can get this ball back rolling."

Until it does, he's got a lot of fond memories to look back upon.

"It's funny how I cannot remember much of my childhood as far as school or stuff like that," Wilder said. "But the racing, it's just like I was there yesterday. You just don't forget."



Ontario purse funds of cancelled races to continue to support horsepeople

Ontario Racing press release:

Ontario Racing is pleased to notify industry participants that – by application – horsepeople will have the opportunity to access certain purse funds that remain available under the Funding Agreement with Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) as a result of the suspension of live racing in the province due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These funds were already committed to the industry through the Funding Agreement for Live Horse Racing between Ontario Racing and OLG. To enable this access, Ontario Racing, OLG and the other parties to the Funding Agreement have entered into an amendment to the Funding Agreement, a copy of which will be posted on the Ontario Racing website.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario Racing created a task force to address the financial impacts on the horse racing industry. The Ontario Racing Task Force has worked closely with OLG to structure the below interim process which is available to all three breeds – standardbred, thoroughbred and quarter horse.

Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible to receive funds pursuant to this interim measure, owners must complete an application which must be submitted to Ontario Racing Management Inc. (ORM). Eligibility requirements for this program include the following:

- Horses must be trained and raced by an

- Ontario-based trainer with a valid AGCO license
- Certification that the horse is resident in Ontario, or has completed a Stall Application for the 2020 race season, or is otherwise verified to be coming to Ontario for the 2020 race season
- The horse's first start following the resumption of racing in Ontario must be at an Ontario track, unless otherwise approved by Ontario Racing
- Horses must be at least 3 years old, and either have not yet raced or have raced since Jan. 1, 2019

Subject to meeting the above eligibility criteria, for the months of April and May, should racing continue to be suspended, racehorse owners will be eligible to receive the following payments, each of which is estimated to cover half of the monthly costs associated with boarding, feed and training fees (veterinary, blacksmith, shipping, and other fees are not included in this estimate):

Thoroughbreds \$1,500/month

Standardbred \$1,000/month

Quarter Horse \$750/month

Horse owners can apply for payments under this interim measure by submitting an application form to Ontario Racing, c/o Sarrah Young syoung@ontarioracing.com. Application forms will be available on the Ontario Racing website.

Standardbred horses that were qualified to race during the last week of March will be eligible to each receive \$300, and drivers and trainers will receive 5 per cent up to an accumulated maximum of \$25,000 for each group.

If the suspension of live horse racing in Ontario as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic continues beyond May 31, 2020, the Task Force intends to present a revised proposal to OLG for the reallocation of purse funds under the Funding Agreement, which will include payments for 2-year-old racehorses as well.

Ontario Racing will continue to pay the 1.5 per cent of purses to the horseperson's associations so they can continue to offer benefits, benevolence activities and additional assistance to those in need.

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HRU NEWS



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2020 HHYF summer events cancelled

On behalf of Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF) trustees and staff, we regret to announce that all HHYF events scheduled for May, June, July, and August have been cancelled. 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.

HHYF is currently working on the development of virtual learning opportunities to be used on our social media outlets. Announcements and details will be made as they become available.

HHYF will continue the Curt Memorial Scholarship & Sweet Karen Scholarship selection process – reminder that April 30 deadline for submission of all applications and related documents remains unchanged.

The production of the 2020 edition HARNESS HEROES trading cards is also underway.

Many thanks to our 2020 sponsors whose support will sustain our mission and activities.

Win Level: Diamond Creek Farm, Lindy Farms, Meadows Standardbred Owners Association.

Stable Sponsor Level: Blue Chip Farm, Brittany Farm, Fair Island Farm, Fair Winds Farm, Purple Haze Stable, Joe Asher, Chris McErlean, Howard Taylor.

For further information about HHYF, please visit www.hhyf.org or call 317.908.0029.

– HHYF

SOA of NY 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.

"The grooms who paddock the horses at Yonkers Raceway have seen their income disappear due to no fault of their

own," said Joseph Faraldo, president of the Standardbred Owners Association of New York. "They provide an important contribution by providing care to our equine athletes before and after they compete at the track. The grant is designed to assist them until we can resume racing and the grooms can get back to doing their job and we can all get back to the sport we love."

– SOA of New York

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 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 Knutson Trotting – are also generously donating a 2020 breeding to Six Pack to the Fund.

One hundred per cent of the proceeds generated from the online auction of these four breeding will go directly to the SBOANJ Benevolent Fund. Gural, chairman of the Meadowlands, said, "It is the right thing to do. New Jersey horsemen have been particularly hard hit and I am extremely happy to lend a hand."

The auction began on Ongait on April 8, 2020, and will run through Easter Monday, April 13, 2020. 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 uncharted waters for us as an industry right now. We as an organization will make sure that these funds get into the right hands."

Mike 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."

Thomas 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

OHHA establishes donation portal to assist Ohio horsemen

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.

Horsemen can complete an Equine or Human Benevolent Fund application and submit it to the OHHA Fund Trustees for consideration.

OHHA president Steve Bateson says the Human and Equine Benevolent Funds have been there since 2015 to help horsemen that are having a significant financial hardship or that have horses in peril. "OHHA Trustees for the funds will go through the applications as quickly as possible. The Trustees have a simplistic and fair across the board system in place to expedite the process."

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association has created a webpage to combine its COVID-19 resources. The page is located at <https://www.ohha.com/covid19.html>

The page, includes links to:

- The PayPal Donation Portal
- The Equine and Human Benevolent Fund Application
- COVID-19 Ohio Financial and Health Assets which include: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Health Insurance Trust information, State of Ohio governmental updates, Federal CARES Act relief package information, City of Columbus information and resources for Ohio businesses and workers including information about unemployment aid and foreclosure information.

—Frank Fraas / OHHA outreach and PR coordinator

Important COVID-19 information about Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

The U.S. federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) authorizes up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses to pay their employees during the COVID-19 crisis.

All loan terms will be the same for everyone. The loan amounts will be forgiven as long as:

- The loan proceeds are used to cover payroll costs, and most mortgage interest, rent, and utility costs over the

8-week period after the loan is made; and

- Employee and compensation levels are maintained. Payroll costs are capped at \$100,000 on an annualized basis for each employee.

Due to likely high subscription, it is anticipated that not more than 25 per cent of the forgiven amount may be for non-payroll costs. Loan payments will be deferred for 6 months.

For complete information, please visit:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP--Fact-Sheet.pdf>

U.S. Small Business Association - disaster loan applications

Important COVID-19 Emergency Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) information can be accessed here:

<https://www.sba.gov/page/disaster-loan-applications>

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000. The Small Business Association's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

The loan advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. This loan advance will not have to be repaid.

Changes to CPMA elimination guidelines including changes to clenbuterol testing

The Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA) announces that, effective immediately, the [Elimination Guidelines](#) have been updated and will now be ONLY AVAILABLE online.

Moving forward, the Elimination Guidelines will be updated on an "as needed" basis. For each future update, the CPMA will send out an Industry Notice to those subscribed to the [Email Subscription Service](#).

The printed Elimination Guidelines booklet is now obsolete. Changes in this new online edition include changes to clenbuterol testing as well as the addition of five new drugs, as described below:

1. Guidance for clenbuterol use has been extended from 7 days to 28 days. The new testing will be effective on May 1, 2020.



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2. Addition of new guidelines for the following five drugs:
- Cetirizine (for example *Reactine*)
 - Clodronate (for example *Osphos*)
 - Fluticasone (for example *Flovent*)
 - Fluticasone / Salmeterol (for example *Advair*)
 - Ipratropium bromide (for example *Atrovent*)

The CPMA strongly recommends that you consult your veterinarian on any decision to administer any supplement or medication to a racehorse.

If you have any questions, please contact the CPMA at 1-800-268-8835 or at aafc.cpmawebacpm.aac@canada.ca.

—AGCO

Addition of Altrenogest, Grapiprant, and Lubabegron to the Schedule of Prohibited Drugs

In consultation with its Drug Advisory Committee, the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA) has officially added the following drugs to section 1 of the Schedule to the *Pari-Mutuel Betting Supervision Regulations*: Altrenogest, Grapiprant and Lubabegron.

Altrenogest is an oral hormone that is used to keep female horses from coming into heat, and to suppress unwanted behaviours associated with heat cycles. It is also used to modify behaviour in male horses. Use in females is a legitimate therapeutic use. Use in males is not, and this use is prohibited by many jurisdictions internationally. In alignment with other jurisdictions, and through a policy decision, the CPMA will only prohibit this drug's use in male horses. Veterinarians and trainers may continue to use Altrenogest in female horses.

Grapiprant is a drug used to treat arthritis pain and inflammation in dogs. This drug is not recognized for use in horses.

Lubabegron is a drug used in cattle to reduce ammonia gas emissions. This drug is not recognized for use in horses. Therefore, any detection of the above drugs, with the exception of Altrenogest in female horses, may result in a positive test.

The CPMA strongly recommends consulting a veterinarian on any decision to administer supplements or medications to a racehorse.

Testing for these drugs will begin on May 1, 2020.

—AGCO

Horse Lovers United asking for support

Horse Lovers United Inc (HLU) is a horse rescue based in Salisbury, MD, that serves the Delmarva Peninsula, and often beyond that area. Our services have included: direct

adoptions, assistance in finding new homes by networking, assistance with euthanasia costs, assistance with feeding costs to help owners going through hard times, and volunteer opportunities for community service.

There are currently 10 standardbreds being cared for monthly at private farms, since we operate without a farm. A couple, Rising Ty and Von's Charmer are 30 and 31 years old, and are not looking for new homes. A couple others have issues that keep them from being desirable. The others are talented and could be adopted, but nobody is interested. Their expenses are about \$1,500 per month, not including the vet, dental, and other medical expenses. It has been a struggle for a while, but especially now, since we cannot do regular fundraisers like quarter auctions, etc. We currently have two breedings available at a big discount; one to Classic Card Shark and one to Lucky Chucky. If you can help by buying a breeding, please contact us by email:

boxwood3684@comcast.net. We will also be doing some individual auctions of some interesting items on our Facebook page: Horse Lovers United Inc

—Horse Lovers United

Second payment due for \$200,000 Prix D'Ete

The second nomination payment of \$1,000 is due for the 2020 \$200,000 Prix D'Ete for 4-year-old pacers at the Hippodrome 3R. The race takes place on Sunday, Aug. 23, 2020.

The second payment must be post marked by Wednesday, April 15.

There were 30 horses nominated to the first payment. All nominations payments must be made in order to remain eligible. There are no supplemental payments allowed for the Prix D'Ete.

For the first time there will also be a \$50,000 consolation race on the same day for those horses that do not make it to the final. The final will feature the eight-top money-winning nominees during the 2020 season.

Horses that finish sixth through eighth place in the final will each receive \$1,000.

To make the second sustaining nomination payment, owners/trainers can [click here](#) or go on www.hippodrome3r.ca to get the necessary payment/nomination forms.

—Quebec Jockey Club

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