



DEVELOPMENTS

INDUSTRY NEWS,
&
ANNOUNCEMENTS,
PEOPLE & EVENTS

Amerman Newest CHRB Commissioner

John Amerman, 74, of Palos Verdes Estates, has been appointed to the California Horse Racing Board. Amerman has served on the boards of the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC), Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA), National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA), and Breeders' Cup. He previously served as chair and chief executive officer for Mattel from 1987 to 1998.



Amerman and his wife, Jerry, have developed one of the top horseracing operations in the country, with extensive racing, breeding, and farm interests. They have enjoyed over 50 stakes wins, including the Breeders' Cup Distaff with Adoration, and now have about 75 horses, including more than 20 mares.

The Amermans also own Peacefield Farm, a rehabilitation and lay-up facility in Temecula, and devote time and resources to several animal welfare organizations, including Tranquility Farm, California Equine Research Foundation, Pegasus Foundation, and the University of Kentucky's Gluck Equine Foundation.

"John Amerman brings an added level of depth and understanding to the Board, which is critically important," said CHRB Chairman Richard Shapiro. "His business background, coupled with his keen understanding and past participation in the racing industry, is invaluable." Shapiro has tabbed Amerman to serve on the Board's new Strategic Planning Committee, to develop long-range plans for horse racing in California.

"Cushion Track" Debuts at Hollywood Park

"Like dying and going to heaven." – Jack Vanberg

The above quote is typical of horsemen's sentiments, and the buzz heard on the backstretch since Hollywood Park reopened for training on September 13. Its Autumn meet is scheduled to begin on November 1. Trainers Richard Mandella, Doug O'Neill, Mike Mitchell, Neil Drysdale, as well as many others are raving about the new main track surface – the first of the engineered surfaces that will be installed at California racetracks over the next year or so.

"It's the best thing I've ever seen in California," said Mandella. "I've never been on a backside where everybody was unanimous



Morning workouts on Hollywood Park's new Cushion Track.

about the track the way they are here. California should be very excited about this."

According to Hollywood Park Racing Secretary, Martin Panza, the new surface has convinced several East Coast trainers to send horses out West. Todd Pletcher, the nation's leading trainer, will send a string of horses to Hollywood Park prior to the opening of the 36-day Autumn Meet. Trainers Richard Dutrow Jr. and Lisa Lewis are also making plans to send horses to Hollywood Park.

Cushion Track, installed following the

Spring/Summer Meet, is an engineered racing surface manufactured with a combination of natural sand and synthetic and elastic fibers, mixed with granulated rubber – all coated with a specially formulated blend of wax.

Congress Passes Internet Gambling Bill

After nearly a decade of consideration, Congress has passed Internet gambling legislation. The bill, the “Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006,” includes provisions that were in the bill passed by the House this summer exempting interstate wagering activities on racing by maintaining the status quo under the Interstate Horseracing Act. The President is expected to sign the bill shortly.

The bill does not amend the federal Wire statute; rather, it prohibits the use of credit in connection with unlawful Internet wagering. The language excludes from the definition of “unlawful Internet wagering” “any activity that is allowed under the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978, as amended.” Importantly, the bill effectively outlaws wagering with offshore entities, including those that have been accepting bets on horseracing but providing no revenue to the industry.

For more information, visit the American Horse Council website at www.horsecouncil.org.

An “Equine Affaire” at Fairplex

Equine Affaire, a leading national horse exposition, returns to Fairplex February 1-4, 2007. The annual event includes more than 150 different clinics, seminars, and demonstrations by renowned national and international trainers, competitors, and coaches – as well



as a Youth Pavilion designed specifically for young riders. The trade show, one of the largest in the country, features more than 450 commercial exhibitors.

Established in 1993, *Equine Affaire* produces annual equine education-oriented events across the U.S. Their mission is to promote communication and cooperation within the diverse national horse industry, improve the horse management, training, and riding skills of current horsemen, and showcase the finest horses and competitors of a variety of breeds and equine disciplines.

Admission costs, which include all clinics, seminars, and demonstrations are: adults \$15/day or \$45 for a 4-day pass; children 7-12 \$10/day or \$30 for a 4-day pass; children under 6 free. For more information, call (740) 845-0085, or visit their website at www.equineaffaire.com.

Voluntary Microchip Program Underway

Under a no-cost-to-the owner, voluntary program approved by the California Horse Racing Board, utilizing federal grants, microchips have been implanted in 1,000 Thoroughbreds at Southern California racetracks, with sufficient funding for a total of 4,000 horses. According to the director of the pilot program, Dr. Amy Nevens, the microchip is the size of a grain of rice and is implanted at the crest of the neck just below the mane – the internationally recognized microchip implantation site. The implantation procedure only takes a few seconds, and only one person from the stable is needed to assist Dr. Nevens.

Each microchip is identified by a unique number, which can be read with a hand-held scanner. This number is transmitted to the Jockey Club to be included in the horse’s registration records. The microchips also contain a temperature sensor that can be read with the scanner; and several trainers are using the scanners to monitor the temperature of their horses.

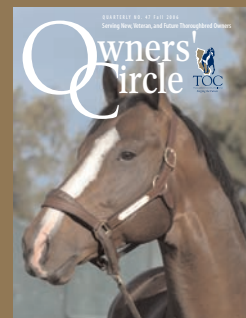
The microchips are intended to allow for the quick and accurate identifica-



Dr. Amy Nevens demonstrates the microchip scanner.

tion of horses entering and leaving restricted areas. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDEA) approved funding for the program using grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The CDEA is evaluating the effectiveness of the microchips in identifying and tracking the movements of Thoroughbreds at Southern California racetracks, as part of the National Animal Identification System’s effort to quickly locate and identify infected and exposed animals during disease outbreaks.

Thoroughbred owners and trainers in Southern California wishing to participate in the program should contact Dr. Nevens at (626) 255-0087.



About Our Cover *Lost in the Fog*

2002 - 2006

Lost in the Fog, the Northern-California based, champion sprinter, succumbed to cancer on September 17th. TOC extends our heartfelt sympathy to owner Harry Aleo, trainer Greg Gilchrest, and all those whose lives and hearts were touched by his greatness - including racing fans everywhere, especially those in Northern California, who made him their own.