NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO BE IN NEW JERSEY

The SBOANJ is pleased to announce that payments to owners of New Jersey-sire horses 6 years of age and under will now receive an additional $100 on top of the current bonus. The payment is made to the owner of a horse that competes in overnight events at Freehold Raceway and The Meadowlands.

With the new bonus, Freehold money-earners 1-5 will received $700, $600, $500, $400 and $300 respectively while Meadowlands earners will receive $1,000, $900, $800, $700 and $600.

The SBOANJ resident mare program will once again be offered in 2023 for mares that reside in New Jersey for 150 days up to and including foaling. The rebate will be awarded to the owner/breeder of record as per the USTA. This year’s rebate is expected to be up to $1,000 per mare. Applications are due into the SBOANJ no later than October 31st 2023 and a foal registration must be included with the application. It is important that you register your foals early.

Breeder awards for the 2023 race season will be paid out at 12%. This payment is distributed to the breeder of record as per the USTA and is based on monetary earnings in designated New Jersey stake races which includes NJSS events, SBOANJ events and New Jersey Classic races. The award is for New Jersey-sired horses.

All programs require SBOANJ membership and a W9 form. For more information visit sboanj.com or call the office 732-462-2357.
RUTGERS EQUINE SCIENCE CENTER 2023 EQUINE INDUSTRY SUMMIT

The Rutgers Equine Science Center hosted the 2023 New Jersey Equine Industry Summit on March 16. The focus of the summit was to help provide better horse care through research and education to ensure the well-being of the equine industry.

Dr. Karyn Malinowski, Director of the Equine Science Center, started the summit by welcoming Secretary Douglas Fisher, New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Secretary Fisher reiterated Governor Murphy’s interest in the Equine Industry and his efforts to continue to support the horse racing industry.

Dr. Alisa Herbst gave a report on the 2022 Equine Needs Assessment Survey, before Keynote speaker Dr. Jill Stowe took the stage.

Dr. Jill Stowe, Professor of Agricultural Economics and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Equine Science and Management degree program at the University of Kentucky, gave a presentation on Economic Analysis of Equine Operations. The presentation focused on ways to reduce costs for horse- and horse-farm owners.

Before the lunch break Jim Gagliano, President and Chief Operating Officer of The Jockey Club, gave a brief summary of the current state of Thoroughbred racing in the United States touching on the issues racing currently faces. He also discussed the implementation of HISA in the Thoroughbred industry. Mike Tanner, Executive Vice President/CEO of the USTA, followed Gagliano with the state of Standardbred racing in the United States. Tanner focused some of his speech on the current issues the USTA has with the implementation of HISA. After each presentation both gentlemen took questions from the audience.

After lunch participants were able to attend six different breakout sessions to learn more about specific topics. SBOANJ’s Executive Administrator Al Ochsner facilitated The Future of Racing breakout session.

Dr. Karyn Malinowski and Rutgers Equine Science Center did an amazing job further educating all the attendees at the New Jersey Equine Industry Summit. For more information and copies of the presentations visit https://esc.rutgers.edu.

FREEHOLD’S SAINT PATRICK’S DAY RACE

Freehold Raceway hosted its annual Saint Patrick’s Day Race on March 17. In the third race on the day’s card every horse was driven by a driver of Irish descent.

While many of the drivers were familiar faces at Freehold Raceway, James Whelan and his nephew Michael Whelan made the trip from Canada to join the festivities.

Freehold’s very own Irish Joe Hanney took home the win and bragging rights over his fellow countrymen. Hanney left from the rail position with Sheeza Shark N to take a seat behind the odds-on favorite Eden Paige N and Jim Marohn Jr. Hanney pulled Sheeza Shark N at the top of the lane after a perfect pocket trip to take the win in 1:57.4. The 13-year-old mare is owned and trained by Laurie Molnar. Eden Paige N finished second with Macjestic Toddy N and Steve Smith closing for third.
NEW JERSEY SHINES AT DAN PATCH AWARDS BANQUET

Florida was the site of the U.S. Harness Writers Association’s Dan Patch Awards banquet, honoring harness racing’s stars of 2022, but the event had an overwhelming Jersey Fresh feel.

Many of last year’s award-winners called New Jersey home, from Trainer of the Year Jim Campbell and Driver of the Year Dexter Dunn to Trotter of the Year Bella Bellini and eight other equine champions. All were recognized Feb. 19 at Rosen Shingle Creek resort in Orlando.

Campbell’s season included winning the Hambletonian with Cool Papa Bell and Hambletonian Oaks with Fashion Schooner, making him only the third trainer in history to capture both trotting classics in the same year. Cool Papa Bell, who was bred by Belmar Racing and Breeding and owned by Runthetable Stables – both from New Jersey – won the Dan Patch Award for best 3-year-old male trotter.

“The reason I’m standing up here is because of everyone involved with the year I had last year,” Dunn said. “From the owners, the trainers, the grooms, and most importantly, the horses. I love them. They’re an unbelievable animal and they’ve given us a lot of thrills.”

Lucas Wallin, who moved from Sweden to New Jersey in 2014, received the Rising Star Award. Wallin, who turned 30 in December, saw his training stable establish a career high with $1.69 million in purses. Among his stakes winners was Rebuff, who won the Kentucky Futurity.

“I couldn’t do all of this if it wasn’t for my amazing crew,” said Campbell, who also thanked his family and owners during his Trainer of the Year acceptance speech. “They are the unsung heroes behind me. Their hard work and dedication is second to none.”

Dunn captured the Driver of the Year Award for the fourth consecutive year after leading the sport in purses with a career-best $15 million. Dunn was the driver of Horse of the Year Bulldog Hanover as well as Trotter of the Year Bella Bellini.

“To see all the names that have won this award before me makes me very proud and grateful,” Wallin said. “I wouldn’t have received this award if it wasn’t because of a lot of people. All the people that have been involved in our team and all the owners that have trusted us to train their horses. It is a privilege to train your horses and do what I love.”

Of the 12 horses to receive divisional honors, nine were trained in New Jersey, including the aforementioned Cool Papa Bell and Bella Bellini, who was in the stable of Nifty Norman.

Other champions from the Garden State were 2-year-old female trotter Special Way and older male trotter Ecurie D DK (both from the stable of Ake Svanstedt), 2-year-old male trotter Volume Eight and 3-year-old male pacer Pebble Beach (both Noel Daley), 3-year-old female trotter Jovality S (Marcus Melander), 3-year-old female pacer Treacherous Dragon (Nancy Takter), and older female pacer Test Of Faith (Brett Pelling).

FREEHOLD TO DISTRIBUTE SPORTS BETTING MONEY FROM 2021 & 2022

Freehold Raceway soon will begin distributing purse money generated from sports wagering as part of an agreement running through December 31, 2029.

A formula is being created to allocate funds from 2021 and 2022 to owners, trainers, and drivers that participated in overnight races and earned money at Freehold during those years. Each year will be calculated separately.

Distribution will be available shortly from March 23. Qualifying drivers, trainers, and owners will receive one check for each year. Multiple ownership checks will be sent to the first name listed on the program.

The allocation of 2023 sports betting revenue will go directly to the track’s purse account monthly. The New Jersey Gaming Commission releases the monthly sports betting revenue approximately 15 days after the end of each month.

For more information, please call the SBOANJ office at 732-462-2357.
The 2022 Roll With Joe for open pacers attracted harness racing’s biggest star, Bulldog Hanover, who was his usual dazzling self in a dominant 1:46 victory.

Fittingly, beginning with this year’s edition, the stakes event held at The Meadowlands will be renamed “The Dave Brower Memorial,” in honor of another standout from the world of harness racing.

Brower, the track’s longtime lead TV personality, morning-line odds maker and program analyst, passed away at the age of 53 while on assignment in Kentucky, during a week when he was the TV point man covering the races at Lexington’s Red Mile.

“The competitive nature of the races contested over the mile track has led to The Meadowlands continuing to do big business this year,” said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemoir. “The loyal support of horseplayers – as well as horsemen who continue to fill the entry box – resulted in an eye-popping $8.5-million weekend.”

The 2023 edition of The Dave Brower Memorial, which has an estimated purse of $175,000, takes place on Saturday, July 1, and is one of four stakes events on the card. Also on the schedule that night are the $150,000 (est.) Perfect Sting for open mare pacers, $175,000 (est.) Crawford Farms for open trotters and $150,000 (est.) Six Pack for open mare trotters.

The two 50-cent Pick-4 bets at The Big M on Friday averaged just over $142,000, while the lone 20-cent Pick-5 took in a 2023-high $100,913. Exacta betting totaled $1.25 million on the night, almost $90,000 per race, while the Trifecta pools averaged just under $70,000.

The weekend total of $8.5 million is noteworthy since only twice since the start of 2021 has the $8-million weekend plateau been reached, and those were both Hambletonian weekends.

A year ago, $3-million-plus was wagered 23 times over a total of 85 race cards.

A look at the top six tracks in terms of handle on March 3 shows how The Meadowlands stacks up against the best in Thoroughbred racing. The Big M is the most prolific track in terms of betting handle at night, regardless of whether the subject is harness or Thoroughbred racing.

BIG M’S ROLL WITH JOE RENAMED IN HONOR OF DAVE BROWER

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“He was such a popular personality. He loved bringing people on our set and letting them take pictures holding microphones. And he knew and loved everybody, and everybody loved him back. We still feel the loss, but now that some time has passed, we felt it was the right time to rename one of our big races for Dave. That way, people will never forget him.”

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“My mother, Rose, and I are grateful for all of the support we have received from Dave’s friends at The Meadowlands,” said Laura Brower, Dave’s sister. “We haven’t been to the track since the Celebration of Life for Dave (on Nov. 12 of last year), but we wouldn’t miss July 1 for anything.”
## 2023 SBOANJ STAKES PAYMENTS

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## 2023 UPCOMING STAKES RACES

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## 2023 UPCOMING STAKES RACES

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Medical Clinic
Gaitway Farm

The BCAP Medical Clinic at Gaitway Farm dates will be announced soon. The clinic offers free medical checkups, renewal of medications, blood work and more. BCAP’s Medical Clinic is located in Chris Samaha, Ph.D.’ s office at Gaitway Farm (next to barn 17).

Chris Samaha’s office (BCAP: Backstretch Community Assistance Program), at Gaitway Farm is opened on Mondays during the summer months and on Monday & Wednesdays after Monmouth Park closes (lower c). Free and confidential counseling, advocacy and more assistance is provided for all N.J.-licensed horsemen. Feel free to call Chris @ 732-740-5376 for further information.

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 27, 2023
SBOANJ ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey’s 27th annual golf outing will once again take place at the Knob Hill Golf Club in Manalapan, N.J., on Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

The proceeds from the golf tournament support the SBOANJ Horsemen’s Benevolent Fund and TrotPAC.

More information will be available soon. Any questions contact Marie Lauer at the SBOANJ office 732.462.2357.

TrotPAC trustees continue to attend many political leaders’ fundraisers during these uncertain times to help ensure the long-term viability of Standardbred racing and breeding in New Jersey. With the recent changes in Legislators it is more important than ever that TrotPAC make its presence known in Trenton. TrotPAC trustees must now educate and promote the importance of our industry to all the State Legislators. Most recently TrotPAC trustees attended the events for the following people: Senator Vin Gopal, Senator Paul Sarlo, State Assemblywoman Lisa Swain, Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin, Senator Linda Greenstein, Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblyman Benjie E. Wimberly, and Senate Republican Majority Leader Steven Oroho.
PRESIDENT’S LETTER

This year has started off on the right foot, and 2023 has brought some new changes at both New Jersey racetracks.

The Meadowlands has kicked off the new year with fantastic handle numbers, and on the weekend of March 3-4 smashed the $8-million plateau that has only been reached the past two years on Hambletonian weekends. Handle has surpassed $3 million on every Friday and Saturday card this year, already exceeding the 23 times that level was reached in 2022. Congratulations to the Meadowlands and its staff for putting together record-breaking worthy race cards.

In addition, the Meadowlands announced racing will be featured on at least eight live telecasts of the popular “America’s Day at the Races” series on the Fox Sports networks. Highlights of the 2023 schedule (still tentative) will be coverage of the entire Hambletonian Day card as well as some of the biggest nighttime cards of the Championship Meet, including the Meadowlands Pace eliminations and final.

With this news Mr. Gural has decided to employ Presiding Judge Lou Haskell to enforce on-track policies. I just want to remind all drivers and trainers to please make themselves aware of these policies as Judge Haskell will be monitoring all races going forward.

I am very happy to report that the SBOANJ and Freehold have come to an agreement on the sports betting contract. Although it was a long and trying process we are pleased with the terms and excited to move forward. As a result, Freehold will be retroactively paying out sports betting profits to those who participated in racing in 2021 and 2022. Drivers, trainers, and owners that earned purse money in those years will be receiving additional funds in the near future.

In other good news, Governor Murphy’s 2024 budget has included one more year of appropriations to the horse racing industry. This gives us a little breathing room to continue our efforts with legislation to renew the full five-year appropriations awarded previously.

That being said I would like to thank all the breeding farm owners, training facility owners/managers, and trainers for their cooperation providing the necessary information needed for the Horse Racing Economic Impact Study the SBOANJ has been working on. We really appreciate all of those that participated in the survey that was sent out.

Once the study has been completed it will be posted on our website along with the New Jersey Horse Racing Impact Studies that were previously completed for you to view. The results of the study will also be sent to the New Jersey Legislature to hopefully help persuade lawmakers to continue to fund the appropriations needed for the Meadowlands and Freehold to compete with neighboring tracks that benefit from the large subsidies that casinos provide.

I wish everyone continued success this year and look forward to the fast-approaching stakes season.

Mark Ford
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First Vice President
Michael Klau
Second Vice President
Yannick Gingras
Third Vice President
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Linda Toscano

RACETRACK REP
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Donna Marshall - Meadowlands

BOOKKEEPER
Marie Lauer

INSURANCE COORDINATOR
Maritsa Quijada

STAKES COORDINATOR
Linda Goss

PUBLICITY CONSULTANT
Courtney Stafford

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609-292-8830

License/Fingerprint
NJ Racing Commission
Trenton: 609-292-0613
Freehold: 732-462-3800
Meadowlands: 201-460-4137

NJ Trailer Ban: NJTP
800-336-5875