

## 2021 MATCH Series Primarily Run in Maryland

Maryland racetracks will host 20 of the 24 races that are part of the newly configured Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Championship (MATCH) Series for 2021. The series will begin at Pimlico Race Course during Preakness weekend and end at Laurel Park Christmas weekend.

The MATCH Series was restarted in 2018 after a 16-year hiatus and was shelved in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lingering pandemic nearly forced the cancellation of the 2021 series as well, but Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Executive Director David Richardson proposed a series entirely conducted at Maryland Jockey Club racetracks and worked with MJC President and General Manager Sal Sinatra to put the 2021 series together.

Frank Petromalo of the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association later approached Richardson and Sinatra to add four races scheduled during its August meet. The current plan is to return to its regular format in 2022 with races held at Delaware Park, Laurel Park, Monmouth Park, Parx, Penn National, Colonial Downs and Charles Town.

In total, this year's MATCH series will include 24 stakes races for 3-year-olds and up with \$2.75 million worth in purses. Additionally, \$282,000 in bonus money is available.

## Maverick Award Established in Memory of Mary Cosenza

The late Mary Cosenza was honored at the De La Brooke Foxhounds' closing hunt with the establishment of the Maverick Award sponsored

by the club and Mary's parents, Scott and Susan Cosenza. During the presentation, Susan noted, "Mary grew up with De La Brooke and she loved this club very much ... this is where she developed her passion for fox hunting."

The award is to recognize a member who is independent and a free spirit much in the same way Mary was. Junior member Lucy Nelson was named the first recipient of the new award. Nelson is a busy junior rider with the hunt club and the De La Brooke Pony club, and along with her sisters, manages the company "American Pony Outfitters," which offers equestrian themed clothing. Nelson spent this past season as a junior whip and rode nearly every hunt as her virtual school schedule allowed her the unique opportunity to be offline on Wednesdays when the club hunts.

## Kentucky Requires Testing for Horses Shipping from Pimlico

Due to the EHV-1 outbreak at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture issued a statement on April 10 regarding horses shipping from Pimlico to Kentucky. The statement reads:

"An inability to adequately isolate new arrivals on the grounds of Kentucky tracks and training facilities does warrant an abundance of caution be taken to mitigate risk of disease entry. Based on this, we are directing KY tracks and their associated sanctioned training centers to not allow movement of horses which have resided or been at Pimlico (racing, training, transiting, etc.) on or after March 15, 2021 without prior approval from the KY Office State Veterinarian.

"We have and will continue to allow horses from Pimlico to enter KY and will work to qualify and facilitate movement of these horses to a KY track or training center on an individual basis following testing and further evaluation. Horses which have recently (since March 15) been on the grounds of Pimlico can qualify for approval to enter a KY track or sanctioned training center if they have documentation demonstrating they have been off the grounds of Pimlico for 30 days OR horses may move from Pimlico and after having been off the grounds for 24 hours be examined by a veterinarian and testing negative by PCR for EHV-1 (nasal swab and whole blood - EDTA) could qualify for entry onto a Kentucky racing or training facility.

"A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for the horse(s) from the point where the sample was collected needs to be issued for movement to the Kentucky racing or training facility and must document the EHV-1 testing, current health assessment in addition to meeting the normal entry requirements that includes EHV-1 vaccination and EIA test certificate.

"Our plan is for the current protocol described in this message to remain in effect through the first week of May when we will make determination and provide instruction on how to proceed."

As of press, Laurel Park was still under quarantine orders by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, which is why the KDA made the decision to only impose restrictions on Pimlico, which has reopened, according to Sean Southard, Director of Communications and Public Affairs for KDA.

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## Gentle Giants Visits Assisted Living Home *photos by Katherine O. Rizzo*



On April 6, Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue took five of their horses to the Lorien Assisted Living home in Mt. Airy. Volunteers rode horses up to a line of residents and staff waiting to pet the horses and chat with the volunteers and Gentle Giants staff. After the outdoor visit, horses were also ridden past the windows of residents who could not come outside and then took a stroll through the neighborhood.



Former New York carriage horse Harlem lowers his head for some loving from one of the residents.

A resident who played polo in his younger days shows Dutch a Gentle Giants calendar. Dutch left for his forever home the next day along with Stoney and Angel.



Gentle Giants' head trainer Lauren Nation waves to residents while volunteers Janet O'Connor and Patty King ride Dutch and Stoney past windows.

