



## Race Track Industry Program

### 39th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON RACING & GAMING

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#### BACK IN FASHION: HOW TRACKS AND HORSEMEN CAN BENEFIT FROM THE RENEWED INTEREST IN THOROUGHBREDS

**MODERATOR:**

**Scott Wells**, President and General Manager, Remington Park Racing and Casino

**SPEAKERS:**

**Georganne Hale**, Director of Racing, Maryland Jockey Club

**Cathy O'Meara**, Industry Initiatives Coordinator, The Jockey Club

**Steuart Pittman**, Founder and President, Retired Racehorse Training Project

**Ms. Wendy Davis:** We're gonna stay just a little bit late. I hope we get some additional folks as we get going here. Well this is a panel that is certainly near and dear to my heart. *Back in Fashion: How Tracks and Horsemen Can Benefit From the Renewed Interest in Thoroughbreds.* I certainly can get on my soapbox as Scott knows, he has agreed to moderate this panel. I've ridden Thoroughbreds my whole life and taken Thoroughbreds off the racetrack and gone to horse shows. Those were the only horses that I was able to ride as a kid, because that's what we had. If you wanted a horse that jumped or did dressage, that was your only choice. They're still certainly my favorite.

What's really exciting to me is that the trend of everybody riding something else other than a Thoroughbred seems to be turning around. The really exciting part is that when we look at how the tracks and the horsemen might be able to work together and really speed up this — it's not an evolution, but maybe coming back to where we were. I think it's really important to everybody. Even though we're not really big in numbers here, I know this is a really important topic and I hope that you all take away some really important points and can take some things back to your tracks or your jurisdictions and you can help turn — kinda turn this ship around.

To sponsor the panel today, we've invited Scott Wells. In trying to figure out who would be a good fit for the moderator, we tried to figure out somebody who could talk from the horse side and from management side at a racetrack and Scott was perfect. He's been in the business of horse racing in one facet or another for his whole life. He was a licensed Thoroughbred trainer in 14 states. He raced horses from California to Florida. He trained the winner of the first pari-mutuel Thoroughbred race in Oklahoma. That's very cool, that's something I didn't know. I found that out doing a little bit of research.

In 1990, took a position at Remington Park in the marketing department and soon worked his way up to the ranks of assistant GM at Hollywood Park and then general manager of Ruidoso Downs. He was hired by Lone Star Park to help reopen the National Racetrack of Mexico from 1998 to 2001, before becoming racing manager and reopening the National Racetrack of Uruguay in 2001 until 2005. In 2005, he returned to the US to become the president and general manager of Remington Park. I think that you see why he's such a good fit for this, as he can discuss this situation from both sides. At this point, I would love to turn it over to Scott who will lead our discussions today.

**Mr. Scott Wells:** Thank you, Wendy. I really appreciate the opportunity to be here. I wanna begin by thanking our sponsor Trakus. For anyone that knows the founder, Barry Weisbord, he's one of the true visionaries of this sport. If you're familiar with what Trakus can do for the sophisticated bettor, and for the casual fan or the novice even, then I think you'll certainly agree. I also, of course, want to thank the University of Arizona. It was great to hear from Dr. Burgess and Dr. Sterling that this program's going to continue. It provides one of the most important forums worldwide in our business each year. It's something we look forward to.

I want to also compliment the whole staff and the students as well on this year's format. I know that in years past I've scrambled from room to room and trying to catch overlapping sessions and missing some important information. This year it's been easier to take in all this great information. I thought the whole symposium so far, certainly today's card, provided some of the most — today's card, like it's a race program.

[Laughter]

You can tell where I come from.

Today's programs have included some of the most fascinating information that I've heard in a long time. Before introducing our first speaker — and I wanna congratulate one other group, and that's the people of — right here in this room. It says something about you that you're here for this session. It says to me that you appreciate that the stars of our sport, the horses, are the ones who generate the billions and millions of dollars that we've talked about in these other session. Thanks for being here. I didn't expect a big group, but I expected a passionate and dedicated group and that's what I see as I look out there.

I would like to address one thing, blow our own horn a little bit from the Oklahoma standpoint, if I might. That is, there's a gentleman named John Smicklas, and he and his wife Barbara have been leading owners of Remington Park since the opening days of that track. Mr. Smicklas has served on the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission. He was extremely instrumental in getting the Racino legislation, which allowed Remington Park to even survive, much less rise to the status it's achieved — that it's achieved in recent years.

A few years ago, John Smicklas approached the Oklahoma legislature with an idea to contribute funds for the aftercare of Oklahoma bred racehorses. He, being a major political contributor for years, thought it would be a fairly simple matter, and yet it wasn't. It took more than two years to get that legislation passed. I share this with you because you may face similar obstacles in your own states. It was very interesting, as I learned that the opposition to this bill, which really was the horse industry funding its own retirement and pension programs, came — because we're primarily an agricultural state, many of our legislators withdrew their support, were afraid of the bill, saying, "Well this sounds like a PETA bill."

We explained that no, indeed was just trying to take care of the starts of our sport. After understanding that, and being lectured on that for a couple of years, we finally did get the bill passed. It goes into effect this year. What it does is that the racetrack itself and the Thoroughbred Racing Association of Oklahoma are contributing \$8.00 per starter. Now, we'll have around 1200 races at Remington Park this year, and our average field size, take note out there you simulcast people, is around — between 10 and 10.3 starters per race. We have large fields of horses.

Both the TRAO and Remington Park will be donating \$8.00 per starter, that's about \$200,000.00 a year, plus the Oklahoma Thoroughbred Association, which merged into the TRAO, doubled its registration fees for any horse, mare, stallion, yearling, whatever to be registered as Oklahoma bred. They doubled their registration fees and then took 50 percent of that, in other words they took the same amount previously for registration fees and put it into that program. Thanks to the cooperation and the guidance of the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission, who will administer the program, I think we have a very important and a — sort of a national standard if you will for caring for horses in our own backyard. We're gonna be working to expand that program to include non-Oklahoma bred horses as well.

I wanna start off with a friend and I that hadn't seen each other a long time ago. When I was training in Maryland back before 1984, Georganne Hale was a person that I met there. She was working in the racing office. Sometimes there are those grumpy old guys that won't give you any consideration. I was stabled off the grounds and everything. I was calling in my entries. I always knew I would find a friendly person on the other end of the phone when I spoke to Georganne, so I learned to just ask for her directly. It was really gratifying to see her grow through the years into one of America's chief racing executives. I'm sure she had a few gender hurdles to jump along the way, the times being as they were then, but her intelligence and her dedication to the sport have elevated her to the position that she holds today. Georganne, I know you've led the way in our topic recently. I'm not only eager to hear you share this with the current audience, but I'm eager to try to implement some of your same ideas in Oklahoma. I turn it over to you.

**Ms. Georganne Hale:** Hello. This year, this past year in July we decided to — Stacie Rogers-Clark and myself decided to hold a horse show at Pimlico, the infield of Pimlico racetrack. It's never been done at a racetrack, and it would be an all Thoroughbred horse show. We would raise money for the horse rescues in our area who help us in Maryland find homes for horses that are retired. I've never run a horse show, so we were working up to it. I didn't quite know what to expect. I used all my people that I use racing, the track crew, the turf crew, used everybody; the turf rail was used as my rings in the infield. It all was coming together. Well, then we started taking entries. People were calling them in, e-mailing them in, and I've never seen so many entries. I had just seven just flat classes. I thought I'd get maybe 10 entries with each class, so about 80 horses.

Well, they kept coming and coming. I was getting a little nervous thinking, "Well, maybe I need to put up a third ring." We put up a third ring. We went and had to find a third judge. Steuart Pittman was one of our judges, Rodney Jenkins was the other, and we went and found Lenny Hale and asked him to be our third judge. We had quite a few entries, and then the day of the race — uh, day of the race. The day of the show

[Laughter]

the day of the show I didn't realize so many people would enter the day of the show. Well we had lines everywhere. They were just lined up. Twice as many horses entered the day of the show.

Instead of having the little 80 horses that I thought, I ended up having 300 horses and 800 entries. It was a little overwhelming, needless to say. The lines were long, and I thought, these people are gonna get impatient. If they're like trainers, they're gonna get a little impatient. I was giving them free coffee, free doughnuts, trying to keep everybody happy. We didn't have many complaints, which I was surprised about. We had to split each class four ways, which was — and it ended up going. Fortunately we got through before nighttime. Everybody had a great time. I've never seen so many Thoroughbreds in this area, in the Mid-Atlantic area, and so many people that I didn't realize had Thoroughbreds that they were showing or foxhunting. I was just wishing my entries were that big.

That's how it became so successful. We used the whole infield. People were so excited about being in the infield of the track that hosts the Preakness. They were excited about that. They rode their horse around the Winner's Circle where the Preakness winner goes. Everybody had a great time. I'm gonna have it again next year, July 13 I think, and we're going to try to start a series in the Mid-Atlantic where we get different shows and you get points and then have a end of the year awards. We're just trying to prove that Thoroughbreds can be used in other horse show, foxhunting, so many other different sports.

I brought a video that HRTV filmed and they did a great job. You can tell by the beginning of the day and the end of the day how tired everybody was.

**[Video Playing]**

Old Hilltop, Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Maryland. For more than 100 years, it has been part of legendary careers, where Seabiscuit defeated War Admiral. It is the home of the Preakness Stakes, the second jewel of the Triple Crown. That coveted Preakness Trophy, the Woodlawn Vase, the most valuable award in all of sports. It stands not only as a symbol of greatness, but one of defiance, resolution, and second chances. Buried during the American Civil War to protect it from being melted down into shot, the Woodlawn Vase was unearthed, polished up, and shines today as Pimlico Racetrack's highest honor. Like the Vase itself, the Thoroughbreds whose racing careers are over gathered for resurrection, to rise again, and reign once more at the site of past glory, at the horse show at Old Hilltop.

**[Music Playing]**

**[Video Playing]**

It was the first of its kind, a horse show exclusively for Thoroughbreds and held on the infield of one of the sport's most cherished landmarks. It was the brainchild of the Maryland Jockey Club and the Adena Springs Retirement Program, showcasing the versatility of racehorses after their racing careers are over. The Thoroughbred Only Horse Show is for off-track Thoroughbreds that have papers, that are Thoroughbreds — registered Thoroughbreds. This is a second career choice for them. Maybe it's a first career that they're actually good at, in some cases, 'cause they weren't such fast runners. Horses can do other occupations after racing. They can be show horses. They can be trail horses. They can be barrel racers.

**[Video Playing]**

We've talked about Thoroughbred Only shows off-track in other places. We try and innovatively try to find ways to raise money in Maryland and in all the states that we have racetracks for Thoroughbreds and after care. This was Georganne's idea, and said, "What do you think?" I said, "Georganne, if you wanna do it, I'm all behind ya. Let's try and get it done." This is the first show exclusively for Thoroughbreds at a racetrack. Right after Preakness, this infield is — there's nothing in it, and let's have it at Pimlico. That's how we got started. It was a genius idea. I hope everything goes smoothly. I hope everybody has fun. There's a lot of popularity with the warmblood, but in this case we're bringing the Thoroughbred out and we're saying, "Look, this is what we're missing. This is something you're missing out on."

**[Video Playing]**

This is Early Note. Early Note was bought at Fasig-Tipton sales by my father as a yearling. I'm excited, he's a great horse. I've had a lot of fun with him. I'm just gonna enjoy the day.

**[Video Playing]**

I brought Wild Lies. He raced until he was nine. He's by Wild Again out of a Seattle Slew mare. I brought Parker's Redemption, Antar's Wrath, Sandero, Prep Time, and Concert Crew.

**[Video Playing]**

This is Hat City and then we have Deep Threat, who's actually schooling in the ring right now. The walk/trot, the walk/trot/canter, and then the two foot over fences. Maryland has a lot of people who are so-called horsing people. They're just animal lovers. This is an amazing place to be. It's got a lot of history here. The greatest horses of all time have raced at Pimlico. Old Hilltop, the Old Hilltop was removed a number of years ago, but it kept the nickname. This a great place to have a retired Thoroughbred show.

**[Video Playing]**

I grew up walking hots here for my grandfather on Sundays. It has a special place. I think it's a gem for Baltimore. It's really cool to have it at Pimlico and everything. It's a whole different environment. It's never been held at a racetrack before, any type of show like this. It's usually at a farm, a training center. We use Pimlico because it's got some aura with the Preakness and so on. I think that helps get people really to come here. I think the normal public relates to the Preakness, it's the biggest sporting event in Maryland.

**[Video Playing]**

Every Preakness is my favorite memory. That's always a good day. A lot of the horses have come from Pimlico, or raced at Pimlico and that they can come back is fun. I don't know if it's more thrilling for us or the horses, but I think it's about equal. You kinda look around and see the grandstands and you think, "Wow, these horses were racing here just a few years ago. Now they're out here showing with me." It makes you kind of feel a part of something really big. This is being run by racetrack people, which I think is even more amazing that they're — you know, you have grooms, and exercise riders, and starters, and everything out here doing this horse show because they love the Thoroughbreds, too.

**[Video Playing]**

The most difficult thing really is setting up because I've never done a horse show. It's our maiden voyage. I mean, I put the races on every day, but not a horse show. We thought two rings would be enough. Then at the last minute, "Oh, we better add another ring."

**[Video Playing]**

We do the Preakness every year, so that's a pretty big event. For us here, our maintenance crew, they do this stuff and it's just amazing. It's a very big endeavor, I don't wanna downplay it, but these guys do it so well it's just kinda like magic.

**[Video Playing]**

This is part of the turf course here that they've rearranged to make the show rings. It's a horse show judged on hunter rules under US Equestrian Federation Guidelines. We're gonna have three rings. First we'll have lead line, and that's for kids six and under. Then we'll have a walk class, which is for children ten and under. Walk/trot and walk/trot canter, and then we'll have three jump classes. You jump one foot, two foot, and three foot.

**[Video Playing]**

I hope it doesn't rain. That would be great.

**[Music Playing]**

Right now, we're in the middle of one of these nice summer thunderstorms we've been getting. It's been raining pretty hard, but we're very hopeful that the rain's gonna push through. We might have a little cloudy day today, but we're gonna try to get the event in. We've got some horses that are starting to school a little bit. Hopefully we'll be able to get through the event.

**[Music Playing]**

**[Video Playing]**

It rained like crazy this morning, and then it blew over. It's been gray, it's been a little bit muggy, but if everybody would be very kind and keep the thunderstorms in Virginia, just right down there in Virginia, we'd be very happy.

**[Music Playing]**

**[Video Playing]**

On July 14, 2012, a morning summer rainstorm pelted the Mid-Atlantic area, the only thing more plentiful than the raindrops were the horses. Hundreds of them that arrived at Pimlico to participate in the first ever all-Thoroughbred horse show at a racetrack. A month ago, I thought I was just—have a nice little show, it's the first year for it, and was gonna have just seven class of maybe 20 and 30 horses. Now, I mean it turned out to be huge.

**[Video Playing]**

Well, a month ago I was gonna bring my own horse and ride, and then things got bigger and bigger. I told Georganne, Phoebe, I'd be here to help judge. A little nervous with the

rain, but he's pretty good. He doesn't care about the jumps. I'm not worried about them. It's just more of the slick grass that I'm worried about. I think he's gonna do pretty good.

**[Video Playing]**

He was a very expensive horse as a yearling. He was bought in Kentucky for 800 and some thousand dollars, and then didn't turn out to be a very good racehorse. I think he only raced twice and broke a bone in his ankle. That ended his racing career. He's gonna do everything from the lead line up to the three foot, I believe, with different riders. It's been a long route with him because he's come slowly around to showing and he's just really special to us.

**[Video Playing]**

Well, I'm here as a fan. Rodney's youngest son is my god-child, so I certainly can't miss his first time at the ring. We've been around horses 'cause my dad's at the barn all the time and — for his job. We always go there. It's fun. We like all the horses there. My favorite part of riding is jumping and doing tricks.

**[Laughter]**

Really the unique thing that you'll see this weekend is these kids. We met a couple yesterday. They've got the pigtailed; they got their little breeches on. They're all excited to be here.

**[Video playing]**

A friend of ours came up yesterday to the barn and she had four little children that were— are getting ready for lead line. They came just barnstorming down the aisle way and all the horses had their noses out. Just as you're gettin' ready to say, "Don't touch that one," or "That one might nip." They're just touching all their noses and they're petting them. The horses just are so calm and so gentle. Horses know when there are children around, and they are just so sensitive to it. That's what makes it really special. That's when I'm taking a horse and I'm selling it to or adopting it out to a family, I'm tellin' the father, "Your daughter won't go to the mall. She's not gonna have a boyfriend till she's 20, this is gonna be it. This is a good relationship." These horses are good for us. They are really good for us.

**[Video Playing]**

I think you grow up with a passion, and it really doesn't ever leave you. It really kinda helps guide you through life a lot of times. Like growing up, things obviously go up and down. You can always turn to your horse and they always make you happy. As an industry, we need to nurture these kids. They're our future fans. They're the future owners, the trainers, the jockeys. It's terrific. I think that young people love horses. I think human beings love horses. There's a connection between human beings and horses.

**[Video Playing]**

Hugh McMahan's one of the top trainers. His daughter won the lead line. You see — I see why — might not be very many trainers at the racetrack today, 'cause I see an awful lot of 'em here. I'm doing walk/trot. I'm doing walk and walk/trot. I think I'm doing walk/trot,

walk/trot/canter, and one foot. I'm doing the same as her. I do the same. Dr. Hunter used to race here at Pimlico, but he wasn't very fast.

**[Video Playing]**

It was fun walking in. One of the first horses I heard Dr. Hunter. I'm like, "Oh my gosh." My parents were breeders and bred for years, and that's the — almost the last horse they bred. I hope to do pretty well. I hope to win at least one prize maybe, hopefully win some money.

**[Laughter]**

Have Hadsody be in the spotlight a little bit more. You're posing Hadsody, good job. Ahi was at Laurel. They had tried to race him seven times, and seven times he didn't wanna race. The owner I guess just was frustrated with his lackluster career and called a friend of mine that had a farm. Which she called me and said, "You wanna buy him?" so we did.

**[Video Playing]**

He's actually doing lead line with a little four year old on his back. We're hopin' that they're just real nice and quiet for those little kids to sit on their back and then go on and have a fun day. I first met him at Prescott Downs, where I rode him in two races there. Then we went to Mountaineer, I rode him one, we won there. Nobody wanted him after his racing career was up, and so I took him and he's the second love of my — third. First is my husband, second's my baby, third.

**[Video Playing]**

We're both jockeys, my husband and I. It was only appropriate that we rode him in our wedding. We got married at the church and then rode him from the church to the reception and rode on him double. It was really nice. I've just had him ever since. Now, therefore, I, Martin O'Malley, governor of the state of Maryland do hereby proclaim July 14, 2012 as the Totally Thoroughbred Horse Show Day in Maryland and do commend the celebration to all of our citizens.

**[Applause]**

**Mr. Scott Wells:** I am blown away by that. I congratulate you. I was going to ask you if Pimlico or the Maryland Jockey Club got any positive publicity off of that, but I know they did.

**Ms. Georganne Hale:** Yes, we did.

**[Laughter]**

**Mr. Scott Wells:** I'm gonna ask you one question, that is are you gonna do it again?

**Ms. Georganne Hale:** Yes, we are, this year, July 13.

**Mr. Scott Wells:** Absolutely. Congratulations on that. It really speaks to the magic of horses and humans. Someone who commented something just like that, Steuart Pittman competed through the advanced level of eventing on his Thoroughbred ex-racehorse, Salute the Truth. If you know anything about three day eventing, it really showcases the agility,

the speed, the power, and I think the good sense that a horse has to have to be so versatile. People talk about certain other breeds being versatile, but I think Steuart will tell us just how versatile they are.

He is the founder and president of the Retired Racehorse Training Project, and serves as president of the Maryland Horse Council. He's worked to restore what he calls the bridge between the racing and the equestrian world. His 2012 Retired Racehorse Trainer Challenge drew 2,000 to its finale. We wanna hear more about that. The RRTP website has generated 250,000 hits in its first 10 months. Steuart believes that by hosting and marketing well-run educational events and showcasing retired horses, racetracks can attract new fans and earn loyalty from existing ones. Steuart, we're eager to hear more.

**Mr. Steuart Pittman:** Okay. Yeah, so I'm the token sport horse guy here. We have Thoroughbreds, but we don't race them. In fact, I scanned a Thoroughbred stallion who was a racehorse, but most of the racing people don't breed to him because he wasn't very fast. The point of that is that Thoroughbreds still are, in my view, the ultimate sport horse. What you saw here was kids on lead line classes, which was a blast to judge, by the way. I got to do that. Thoroughbreds being very quiet, and very calm, and being family pets.

The other end of the ex-racehorse spectrum is the Rolex Three Day Event in Kentucky, where this year, everybody was trying to make the team for the Olympics. Of the 60 entries, 21 had raced, 28 were Thoroughbreds. The rest of the English equestrian sports, the Thoroughbreds have actually declined. They've stayed strong in three day eventing. We've got statistics from the US Equestrian Federation, registrations of show horses basically for the different English showing disciplines.

Forty years ago, Thoroughbreds were 40 percent of all registered show horses and today they're 10 percent. The reason for that is that warmbloods have come in; other breeds have come in that have been bred specifically for some of these sports. We've got a problem, which is that the demand has declined for these horses comin' off the track. One of the effects of that has been that — we call them rescues, they're given away more often than sold when they're done racing. It used to be that I had to pay two, three, sometimes five; I even paid 10,000 for one horse coming off the track with a bowed tendon. He still had — he was a stallion so he was worth it. It's rare for people to be paying decent money for those horses anymore.

We believe that — and the reason that we started this organization was that we need to increase the demand again on the sport horse side. That's not something that you all need to worry about, I need to go worry about that with my friends in my equestrian communities. What I found was that — I don't know how long you want me to go on, 'cause I'd heard this was a question/answer session.

**Mr. Scott Wells:** I was warned that you were a little wordy.

**Mr. Steuart Pittman:** Yeah, you were.

[Laughter]

**Mr. Scott Wells:** I'll cut you off.

**Mr. Steuart Pittman:** I'll take up the rest of the hour if you'd like me to. I can answer questions too, but basically we did this — we did a little experiment where we — to see if there was a demand for education about training ex-racehorses. We put some stuff on the

internet and decided to sell tickets for \$25.00 for people to sit there for four hours and watch us train horses at different levels of training after they race, and 350 people showed up from 10 states. We kinda got the message that, "Wow, people out there in the sport horse world really do want to learn about training ex-racehorses."

What you saw here was a small segment. There's crowds and crowds of people, that's just in the little hunter jumper world. We've also got the foxhunters, and the trail riders, the recreational people, and the three day eventing people. I mean they say there are two million horse owners in the country right now. There are nine million horses. There's a pretty good crowd out there that really does have a passion for Thoroughbred horses. It's kinda like bringing back the Volkswagen Bug, the baby boomers, we all grew up on Thoroughbreds. Well, we want our kids to be riding Thoroughbreds too.

There's a lot of potential to market to those folks, not only to educate them about how great Thoroughbreds are and bring them back to those horses, but I believe that racetracks are the place to do it. That's part of the reason that this show was so popular. There have been other Thoroughbred shows at other locations that have also been popular, but doing it at Pimlico just created a buzz around Maryland. Everybody all summer was talking about whether they were going to the Pimlico show. I could've told you there was gonna be a crowd before the show though.

[Laughter]

It was because it was at the racetrack. Racetracks need to bring people back to the track. The low hanging fruit is the horse lovers, is the people in the horse world.

You know about all the bad press, this is good press. It brings us to the track. I believe that these educational events that we've done at other locations really ought to be happening at racetracks. They passed out a little brochure about what our organization does. I'm interested in talking to anybody who wants to talk to me about ways to do educational events at racetracks. I've talked to some of you already, and I've talked to Georganne about possibly at Laurel. There's a lot that can be done to bring the sport horse people into the track and get the horses placed with those folks at decent prices.

[Applause]

**Mr. Scott Wells:** Stuart, that's fascinating stuff. I congratulate you for your efforts on behalf of the horses and all the people that are benefiting from it. Georganne was just pointing out something to me from your brochure which says, "Enter your retired racehorse in our database. It allows users to research Thoroughbred bloodlines for sport horse credentials."

I just recently had an old friend, a retired jockey from the days when my dad was just a trainer and I was just a kid, and he had pointed out there was a very nice Distorted Humor gelding that was starving in a pasture next to him. He hated to see that. We picked him up and put him in a program very similar to the one you're talking about. I got a call yesterday that he's been adopted.

I am gonna take issue I think, as you did, with Georganne's use of the word rescue. Really it should be Wendy up here doing this panel. She — it was her idea and she's very passionate about it. I know Wendy put herself through school taking horses off the track and reconditioning them into other types of athletes. To me the word rescue is — or I'll use Wendy's words, the term rescue sounded more like a horse — or a dog that was stuck out

in busy traffic or something. As most of us know, the life of the racehorse while he's in training and performing is anything but something that needs to be rescued from. They're lavished with care and they're — I think they're sort of like the PGA golfers. They get to a certain point, and they're just not quite as good as they used to be and couldn't beat the new, upcoming stars. They need to graduate to another career.

As we know from being horse people, horses love to have something to do. I've taken several horses off the track myself and I've had a couple that were a little headstrong, but usually like an old guy told me years ago, "You know how to fix that boy?" I said, "What?" "Wet saddle blankets," by that he meant just give 'em lots of exercise, wear 'em down a little bit, and all that fire'll come out of 'em and they'll manage the task at hand.

Moving on to Cathy O'Meara, Cathy's got quite the resume. Originally drawn to the Thoroughbred industry by the Kentucky Equine Management internship, upon completion of that program she's held various positions throughout the industry, including trainer, owner, exercise rider, farm and office manager. She's currently the Jockey Club Industry Initiatives and Racing Officials Accreditation Program coordinator. She's a graduate of Virginia Tech with a Bachelor's degree in Animal and Poultry Sciences. She's got a great education, great background, and so Cathy, let us know more.

**Ms. Cathy O'Meara:** Oh, there it is. All right, great. Thanks, good afternoon. Thanks, Scott and thank you University of Arizona and the Race Track Industry Program for hosting the panel today. I'm just gonna take a few moments of your time just to give you kind of a brief overview of what — what after care initiatives that the Jockey Club has recently undertaken. Please forgive my voice; I'll try not to crack too much. I'm dealing with a sore throat there, so excuse me on that.

All righty, well first this kind of follows along the horse show lines. The Jockey Club introduced the Thoroughbred Incentive Program, or TIP. This was done as a pilot project. It was launched in October of 2011, where the Jockey Club committed \$100,000 of money to this pilot project for 2012. Due to the success of this pilot project, TIP recently has been approved for 2013. The Thoroughbred Incentive Program recognizes the awards — excuse me, rewards and versatility of the Thoroughbred through the sponsorships of Thoroughbred classes and high point awards. In addition, we also offer two annual non-competition awards.

The competition incentives include Thoroughbred only classes and divisions that you would find at open horse shows and also Thoroughbred only shows, similar to the one that Georganne held. These can be a variety of disciplines. We've had hunter and jumper shows, eventing shows, dressage, English pleasure; we even had a couple Western pleasure classes. All the award recipients will receive is ribbons, saddle pads, and actual prize money from the program itself.

The non-competition awards we host two each year. The first is the TIP Thoroughbred of the Year award. We thought it was important to recognize that Thoroughbreds can also excel in non-competitive careers, such as equine assisted programs, police work, any — a variety of different avenues for the horse that isn't competition related. Then we also rewarded the TIP Young Rider award. This is for — to encourage the youth to be involved with a Thoroughbred, 18 or under. They need to own or lease the Thoroughbred for use in a variety of programs. It could be 4H, Pony Club, or other activities. Both of these awards do receive \$5,000 either to their program or for scholarship of — for educational purposes.

For all of these programs, the TIP eligibility requirement is that a horse must have been registered at the Jockey Club at some point in time during its career. Since the first TIP program that was held at Red Hills International Horse Show trials in Florida, there have been over 150 horse shows and events that held TIP classes. These events have been held in 24 states and Canadian provinces from all levels of horse shows. That could be, again, from the walk/trot level, all the way up through to the Rolex Three Day Event level.

Over 1700 eligible Thoroughbreds have participated in these shows and events competing for thousands of ribbons, 500 saddle pads, and lots of prize money. That's a key, prize money, not a lot of shows offer prize money to some of the lower levels. Overall, we feel that this program for this first year has been a great success. We really look forward to 2013 and beyond. We do encourage any of the horse shows that can now apply for the 2013 season to go ahead to our website, which is — you can see there, TJCTIP.com.

Another initiative that was begun with seed money from the Jockey Club, Keeneland, and the Breeder's Cup is the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, or the TAA. The TAA is supported by a broad cross-section of stakeholders from all points of the Thoroughbred life cycle to develop sustainable funding solutions for Thoroughbred aftercare. The TAA has developed a code of standards for accrediting aftercare facilities to assure donors that their contributions are maximized toward the horse. Ultimately, as the support of the TAA continues to grow we'll—we will include racetracks, breeders, sales companies, and industry organizations. The TAA will address Thoroughbred after care through a comprehensive and unified solution of accreditation, fund raising, and granting.

Starting in — January 1 of 2013, the Jockey Club will increase our fees by \$25.00 for nearly all registry related transactions, including full registrations — including full registrations, excuse me, and all of these funds will then be provided to the Thoroughbred After Care Alliance.

Lastly, I just wanna briefly mention a few of our other resources that provide after care initiatives. That would be the Tattoo Identification Services, the Retirement Check Off program, and also the Thoroughbred Connect program. The Tattoo Identification Services can assist owners in identifying their horses, which can sometimes be a problem after they've left the track. A lot of times, the papers don't follow the horses. Owners can simply input full or partial tattoo numbers into the interactive system to identify the horse. Additionally, we also offer our services for those who may not be able to read the tattoo or would need some extra help. The staff can then assist these owners if they just provide a little bit more information to the IR, interactive registry, such as its gender, its color, and certain markings. We will certainly help to identify those horses for them.

Then in 2011, we launched the Thoroughbred Connect, which is an online service where people who are interested in providing aftercare for Thoroughbreds can then meet and contact owners who are seeking aftercare for their horses. We kind of coin it the online dating site for Thoroughbreds. Since these programs have been launched, over 800,000 tattoo searches have been performed and nearly 1600 people have enrolled in Thoroughbred Connect. The services continue to grow and now houses the specific contact information for the placement of over 3200 horses upon retirement, with 410 connects already have been made.

The Thoroughbred — excuse me, the Jockey Club also provides the Retirement Check Off program to encourage owners and breeders to make voluntary contributions toward programs supported by the Thoroughbred Charities of America and the Vocational Training programs that are provided through the Thoroughbred Retirement program at correctional

facilities. Since the inception, the Jockey Club, through its four commercial subsidiaries has contributed \$800,000 in support of these programs, in addition to the contributions made by individual owners and breeders.

Again, I'd like to thank you again for your time and look forward to any questions that you guys may have. Thanks.

**[Applause]**

**Mr. Scott Wells:** Thank you, Cathy. Are there questions from the audience? If there are none, I just want to say that I think those images of the little kids on the big, formerly expensive horses who were unable to make it on the racetrack, those images are gonna last with me for a long time. I commend you. It's very gratifying to know that people like Steuart, Cathy, and Georganne are being so supportive. After all, our horses are good to us, so we need to be good to them. Thank you everyone and have a good evening.

**[Applause]**



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