

# NEHBPA Notebook....

The newly installed Eurociser machine has received favorable reviews from horsemen. Tickets for use of the Eurociser can now be purchased in blocks of ten for a price of \$63. Any excess of funds will be donated to the retirement of thoroughbred horses. Former trainer Cindy Servideo was hired by Suffolk to operate the machine which is located in the maintenance yard just to the right of the stable gate. We can report that 30-35 horses are exercising on the machine daily.... Suffolk is leasing a 'Jumbotron" for the infield. The 18' x 30' screen is the same one used at Tampa Bay Downs and is being trucked north for the Suffolk racing season and should arrive in early June..... Condolences go out to trainer Billy Lagorio and his family on the recent passing of his dad, William G. Lagorio Sr, on May 23..... Belated condolences also go out to the family of long time owner Vincent Arcieri, who passed away in April..... Starting in June, each Sunday will be "Family Fun Day" at Suffolk Downs with a variety of events planned that cater to the youngsters... Congratulations are in order for Paige Benson, daughter of owner and NEHBPA vice-president Michael Benson, who recently won the Showmanship Classic, High Point English Horse and Reserve High Point Western titles in an equestrian riding competition in Connecticut. Ms. Benson, 17, is also the President of the Youth of New England Pinto Association. She will be competing in the World Show in Tulsa, OK, in June.... Suffolk Downs has partnered with the Massachusetts Lottery Commission and its Daily Race Game which features cartoon like horses. The Suffolk Downs name will appear throughout the game in places like the starting gate and tote board. In between games, commercials and messages promoting Suffolk Downs and live thoroughbred racing will be aired. Last year President Al Balestra and NEHBPA officials, along with representatives of Suffolk as well as the Massachusetts Breeders, met with lottery director Mark Cavanaugh to discuss the promotion of live racing in conjunction with this game. During the meeting, the possibility of expanding the keno style game to include some actual racing from Suffolk Downs in the future was explored..... Board members Jim Greene and Shirley Edwards were recently recognized by the graduating class of St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Nashua, NH, as the recipients of a cash donation that they accepted on behalf of the Eighth Pole, Inc. for the humanitarian service they provide to backstretch workers. Mr. Greene also addressed the graduating class of Northeastern University's Nursing School in May. Members of that class have been frequent visitors to the Eighth Pole office at Suffolk Downs. The nurses held their annual mobile van vaccination clinic at the Eighth Pole on May 28... The horsemen of New Mexico are the latest group to become an affiliate of the National HBPA.... The New England Turf Writers Association will hold their 66<sup>th</sup> annual awards dinner on Monday evening, July 14, at the Danversport Yacht Club. Tickets for the popular gala are \$60 per person or \$600 for a table of ten. Interested members can contact Christian Teja at (617) 568-3220 for details...

The second annual Greater Boston Walk for Autism will be held at Suffolk Downs on Sunday morning, October 19<sup>th</sup>. 16,000 people participated in the event last year..... The next three NEHBPA Board of Directors meetings are scheduled for June 4, June 18 and July 2. Board meetings are held after the races at the NEHBPA office..... Former New England HBPA staff member Henry Ma was a visitor to Suffolk Downs on Derby Day. Everyone in the racing community is very pleased to see that Henry is feeling much better these days. Prior to joining the NEHBPA staff in 2001, he was a popular rider on the New England circuit... Former horsemen Phil Drago and David Matthews are again manning the Suffolk Stable Area Ice House this year. They run the operation as an independent business through an agreement with the NEHBPA's Board of Directors.... The Mid-Atlantic Racing Coalition, of which Suffolk Downs is part, ended a ten day dispute with the New York Racing Association over the import of signals from Belmont Park. The dispute resulted from the NYRA's demand to raise the cost of their exported signal from 4% to 5% nationwide. The coalition and the NYRA eventually compromised on a three year deal and the Belmont signal was turned back on at 60 facilities nationwide on May 9. The NEHBPA exercised its right to block the NYRA signal to all other Massachusetts tracks during the stalemate. Raynham Greyhound Park, Wonderland Greyhound Park and Plainridge Harness Racecourse are not members of the coalition and were unaffected by the dispute. The Massachusetts Racing Commission questioned the NEHBPA's ability to block these signals. A final determination of exactly what rights the commission feels we have under the racing legislation of 2001 is being handled by General Counsel Frank Frisoli, who appeared before the Commission on May 6. After extensive research, Attorney Frisoli is of the opinion that, according to state law, we do have the ability to block the NYRA signals... Congratulations go out to veteran New England trainer John Rigattieri who saddled five winners on the May 17<sup>th</sup> card, all ridden by jockey Dyn Panell. Rigattieri sent out Good Will (3<sup>rd</sup> race), Dixie Red (5<sup>th</sup> race), Prince of Iron (6<sup>th</sup> race), Blondie's Halo (7<sup>th</sup> race) and Handsome Bruno (8<sup>th</sup> race) to wins. It was the third time in the last few years that Rigattieri has had five winners on a card, having done it previously on June 19, 2006, and again less than a month later on July 15, 2006. It was also the third five win day of Panell's career.... Horsemen are again strongly reminded that smoking is not permitted in the barns or in the tack rooms. Everyone is asked to please observe these regulations for the safety of our horses and stable area employees. The Revere Fire Department and the Suffolk security force are monitoring this situation very closely. Please note that violators will be subject to fines and possible ejection from the grounds.... Racing Secretary Tommy Creel reported that there were 1,021 horses on the grounds as of May 27.... Horsemen are advised to check our website at [www.newenglandhbpa.com](http://www.newenglandhbpa.com) or the National HBPA's website at [www.hbpa.org](http://www.hbpa.org) for important updates... Members can always call us at (617) 568-3333 with any questions, concerns or suggestions...

