

DEWEY DOES IT — NJ-SIRED COLT WINS HAMBLETONIAN



Dewey with Ray Schnittker. Photos by Lisa Photo Inc.

Deweycheatumnhowe, a New Jersey-sired colt by Muscles Yankee, became the first unbeaten winner when he captured the 83rd edition of the Hambletonian on August 2 at the Meadowlands.

His sire joined a select list of Hambletonian winners who have also sired a Hambletonian winner.

Dewey, perfect in his first 15 career starts, won the \$1.5 million Hambletonian in 1:52 flat. He is by the 1998 Hambletonian winner Muscles Yankee, who stands at Perretti Farms in Cream Ridge, NJ.

Trained, driven and co-owned by Ray Schnittker, Deweycheatumnhowe is the first Hambletonian winning credit for Muscles Yankee whose 562 starters have banked more than \$42 million, including 107 with earnings of \$100,000 or more.

A divisional and New Jersey Sire Stakes champ at two, he has career earnings of \$2 million.



WESTERN IDEAL COLT CROWNED

Chanceofa Lifetime, a Western Ideal colt out of Lifetime Member, was judged the grand champion at the 2008 Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey Horse Show on August 10, part of the Festival of Horses at the Horse Park of New Jersey in Upper Freehold Township.

Judging the yearlings were Dr. Scott Palmer of New Jersey Equine Clinic and trainer Chris Ryder.

The winning yearling, shown by Hugo Tinoco, is owned by Julie Meirs of Concord Stud Farm and Birnam Wood Farms. He was bred by Robert J. Wish.

By virtue of being the top ranked colt, Chanceofa Lifetime was matched against the top rated filly, Sorcha Bluestone, for the determination of grand champion which was worth an additional \$1,500 in prize money.

Sorcha Bluestone, by Rocknroll Hanover out of Silky Satin, is owned and bred by Bluestone Farm and was shown by Dominika Nawrot.

Chanceofa Lifetime and Sorcha Bluestone each earned \$600 in first place. Cash prizes were also presented for second [\$400], third [\$300] and fourth [\$200] places.

In the colts division, second-place honors went to the Southwind Farms owned and bred Southwind Turbo, a son of Rocknroll Hanover – Tattoo Hanover, shown by Norberto Lopez.

Jillian Luff handled third-place colt Ohm Wild In Red by Red River Hanover out of HH Janie, owned and bred by Oak Hill Manor Farms. Finishing fourth was R Blue Moon Rising, by Red River Hanover out of Rocks N Diamonds, who is owned, bred and shown by Josephine Hodge.



SBOANJ President Tom Luchento [far right] presents the grand champion award to Julie Meirs, one of the owners of Chanceofa Lifetime, with the crew from Concord Stud.

Photo by Chris Machiz

[Continues on Page 5]

For All the News of the SBOANJ, Visit sboanj.com Daily

From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

What we love most about our industry was showcased in some of the best racing in the world the last two months.

When Art Official caught previously unbeaten Somebeachsomewhere at the wire in the \$1 million Meadowlands Pace, many flashed back to some of the greatest races in history and knew they had seen something quite special.

When Deweycheatumnhowe exploded to the lead and dug in to win the \$1.5 million Hambletonian for his 15th straight victory, it continued his reign of perfection and drew respect even from those whom he defeated.

These were magical racing events which drew enthusiastic crowds. For these few occasions, harness racing was in the spotlight and it reminds us how electrifying these epic racing battles can be. If only the "show" and the crowds would reach those levels on a daily basis!

We are grateful to the staff at the Meadowlands and the Hambletonian Society for their efforts at putting on such a grand event, under trying weather conditions, and appreciate their hospitality for the Hambletonian Eve gathering. A special thanks to Dennis Robinson, Dennis Dowd, Lennon Register, Moira Fanning, Marianne Doherty and Lisa Smoter for all their contributions to the festivities.

Hambletonian Week also included an open house at Rutgers University's School of Environmental and Biological Sciences Center and the Exercise Physiology Lab on the Cook College Campus on July 30, and it was a most impressive event under the direction of Dr. Karyn Malinowski, Dr. Kenneth McKeever, their staff and students. Among the attendees were SBOANJ treasurer Al Ochsner and myself. The whole program was innovative and cutting edge. The Equine Science Center at Rutgers is probably the best facility in the country, something New Jersey should be proud of and willingly support.

Work continues in support of efforts to legalize sports wagering. The SBOANJ, through our lobbyist Leon Zimmerman, was the first to get on board with the efforts of State Senator Lesniak who is on the right track and makes a great case for trying to get horsemen in other states to back this in Congress. SBOANJ pushed for the inclusion of racetracks as approved sites for sports gambling to benefit our purse accounts.

The SBOANJ is ready to sign the \$90 million casino supplement deal which would provide a 50-50 split with the thoroughbred industry of \$30 million per year. We have fought hard to include Freehold in the funding and, hopefully, it will be enough to sustain them so that they can contribute to New Jersey's racing health and future.

I remain optimistic, despite the opposition of Governor Corzine, that we will get slots at the racetracks in New Jersey. It may be that the declining revenues at the casinos will inspire some of them to reevaluate and realize that they, too, would benefit from racetrack slots.

Horsemen's benevolence was enriched by a great day of golf at Gambler Ridge. Many thanks to SBOANJ staff for their hard work on the tournament along with event chairmen Bob Baggitt and Eddie Razzetti.

Finally, I want to thank all the members of the Board of Directors who deserve a lot of credit for the time and effort that they put into the SBOANJ. They are a cohesive group, working as one, volunteering their time for the betterment of harness racing.

I look forward not only to the survival of harness racing but also to a once again prosperous industry in New Jersey.

Events unfold quickly and we hope you are checking www.sboanj.com daily so you are up-to-date on all our news.

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GOLFERS FUN YIELDS BENEFIT FUNDS

More than 100 golfers chased away morning showers and enjoyed an afternoon of friendly competition at the Gambler Ridge Golf Course, helping to support the Horsemen's Benevolent Fund through their participation in the 13th annual SBOANJ Golf Outing on July 14.

The golfers and guests received their awards over a prime rib dinner at the conclusion of their round of golf.

Winning prizes for individual golfing prowess were Art Yeranian for closest to the pin, Mundy Stafford for men's longest drive, Judy Cipo for women's longest drive and Brian McNeill and John Ciofalo, who were co-winners of the putting tournament.

Nick Salenetri, John Scarduzio, Greg Popovich and Mike Popovich were the winning foursome with 12 under which was equaled by the group of Shay Cowan, Chris Riely, Mundy Stafford and Chris Cowan, who were placed second on matching cards.

Al Starzyk, Frank Van Wie, John Hynes and Jim Hogan were saluted as the "most honest team" for reporting the highest score.

Mark Kesmodel, one of the leading trainers at the Meadowlands, won the 50-50 drawing.

Trainer Stephen Dey IV won the raffle of a Pennsbury Sport Trainer jogcart, valued at nearly \$1,600, which was donated by Allen Eggert of Pennsbury Enterprises.

Everyone admired but no one took home the 2008 Mercedes-Benz C300 W4 which was the Hole in One prize,

courtesy of Prestige Motors of Paramus.

Other event sponsors included gold level sponsor Katz/Pierz Inc. of Cherry Hill, NJ. There were nine silver level sponsors: Meadowlands Racetrack, Newport Graphics/John DiSomma, Freehold Raceway, Clarksburg Inn, LaFerla Group-UBS Financial Services, SunRx, Sterns & Weinroth, Loomis Insurance and Prestige Mercedes-Benz.

Bronze sponsors included Northwood Bloodstock/Robert Boni, Drucker, Math & Whittman CPAs, Amboy Bank, Joie de Vie Farm, New Jersey Community Bank/Dick Kadash and Citi Smith Barney /Andrew Mento.

Patron sponsors were Fair Winds Farm/Mark Mullen, Horseman Publishing Company, Nick Salenetri and John Campbell.

The event was co-chaired by SBOANJ directors Eddie Razzetti and Bob Baggitt.

For more photos visit www.sboanj.com



Women's longest drive winner Judy Cipo



Mundy Stafford, second from left, won men's longest drive and was a part of the second place foursome. Mark Kesmodel was counting the cash [right] after winning the 50-50.



SUPPORT NJ RACING SO NJ RACING CAN SUPPORT YOU

The Insurance Committee wishes to remind members that to remain eligible for health benefits coverage through the SBOANJ, trainers and drivers need to make at least 51 percent of their starts in New Jersey. Drivers must also meet a minimum of 50 starts and trainers 24 starts in New Jersey per calendar year.

REGISTER TAKES HELM AS SENIOR VP AT THE MEADOWLANDS

When Lennon Register last worked for the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority, he was stationed in the Finance Department in Giants Stadium.

That was 1989 and the average total harness handle at the Meadowlands Racetrack was \$3.165 million.

Ten years later, Register has returned to East Rutherford with a new title – senior vice president for racing – and a new fiscal reality.

The average total handle these days [for 2007] has dropped to \$2.5 million.

Register first started at the NJSEA in 1985 as a budget associate and moved his way up the accounting department ladder. When he left in 1998, he was the assistant vice president for financial operations.



Lennon Register

Photo by Equi-Photo Inc.

Register, who oversaw financial operations for Pennwood Racing since 1999, replaces Dennis Dowd who has been named senior vice president for legal and governmental affairs. Announced on June 5, the changes were implemented on August 4.

While his eye for financial oversight will likely come into play, Register, who has an MBA from Rutgers University, will be responsible for the operational end of both the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park.

“The inspiration [for pursuing this job] came from me looking for a change out of the financial world,” said Register.

“Most of my career has been on the financial end. At Freehold I got to get more involved in the management end of things. My jobs at Freehold were about 50 percent financial in nature and 50 percent operational. So I wanted to go into that side of the business.

“When you’re in finance, you’re pretty much bottom line driven,” he conceded. “Now you have to pay attention to smaller details. Sometimes there is a sacrifice on the financial end to put on a quality race, and you have to be aware of that.”

Born in Newark, NJ, Register earned his BS in accounting from the College of New Jersey [then Trenton State], and it was as a student that he had his first foray into racing with trips to Liberty Bell with classmates.

One of the last projects Register completed for Pennwood was the opening of New Jersey’s third Off Track Wagering facility, Favorites at Toms River. According to Register, he brought in the OTW below budget and ahead of schedule.

“To me the solutions are that we have to put the product close to where people are,” he noted. “OTWs are the way to do it. We have to make facility improvements. It’s going to take an investment in the facilities to bring people back to the track.”

Much of his current experience has been in the area of budgeting, labor negotiations and project management.

“My interest in horse racing is that I’ve been working in

it 20 years just on a different side of the conference table,” he said. “If you’re around this business, you can’t help but like it.”

Register, who resides in West Orange, NJ with his wife, Barbara and has two adult stepsons, George and James, plans to be visible to track employees and horsemen alike.

“As I get deeper into the job here and peel some of the layers off, I’ll get a better picture,” he said. “It’s premature for me to speak to the financial health of the tracks.”

MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON OCT. 24

The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey will hold its annual membership meeting in conjunction with the United States Trotting Association’s District 12 meeting on Friday, October 24 at Freehold Raceway.

The USTA District 12 meeting will take place at 11 a.m. The SBOANJ meeting will follow at 3 p.m.

All SBOANJ members are invited to attend both meetings and enjoy a buffet lunch in the Renaissance Room at Freehold, courtesy of the USTA and SBOANJ, from 12 noon until 2 p.m.

Both USTA and SBOANJ directors will be available for one-on-one dialog during the day.

Elections of directors for both USTA and SBOANJ will take place. The deadline for submitting a nomination for the SBOANJ elections is 5 p.m. on September 9.

Four of the current driver/trainer directors — Tom Luchento, Kelvin Harrison, Paul Wojtowicz and Mark Ford — and owner Eddie Razzetti occupy the director positions up for election.

SADDLE UP FOR THE SRF

The Standardbred Retirement Foundation [SRF] has issued a call for riders and walkers for the National Rescue Ride on October 19.

“Whether riding in saddle or walking in sneakers, you can help us,” said SRF Director of Fundraising Gen Sullivan. “As we support more horses than ever before and the unwanted horse issue gets more and more critical, we hope you will come out and help us help the horses on this great day.

“Signing up is easy,” Sullivan explained. “Just go to www.nationalrescueride.org [908-907-1245] and sign on as an SRF rider or walker. Click on “Find A Ride/Registration” and scroll down the list to find SRF. Registration is only \$20 per rider or walker and payable at registration. Each registered rider or walker receives a National Rescue Ride t-shirt to commemorate this first ever day of its kind.

“The pledges that riders or walkers collect to sponsor their effort will help to benefit the SRF as one of the 70 participating charities,” she continued. “So on October 19, whether in your saddle or in your sneakers, join SRF as part of the nationwide campaign to help America’s abused, neglected and unwanted horses by being a part of the National Rescue Ride.”

LUCHENTO ACCEPTS DANCER MEDIA AWARD

Thomas F. Luchento, president of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, accepted the 2008 Stanley Dancer Media Award, presented by the New Jersey Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association, in winner's circle ceremonies on Friday night, July 11, 2008 at the Meadowlands.

The Dancer Award honors an individual whose efforts on behalf of racing and cooperation with the media are in keeping with the example set by the late Hall of Fame driver and trainer Stanley Dancer of New Egypt.

Luchento was recognized for his positive representation of the standardbred industry before state lawmakers and with journalists for whom he was a cooperative and quotable source.

"As president of the SBOANJ, Tom Luchento has taken the cause of the health and well-being of harness racing in New Jersey beyond the parameters of his position," said USHWA-NJ President Moira Fanning.

"He has personally written, called, communicated, visited and contacted every legislator and media person possible to enlighten them on just how valuable racing is to New Jersey," Fanning noted. "He has reached out to various groups and factions to present a unified front

in negotiating for harness racing.

"The horsemen of New Jersey are fortunate to have him as an ambassador, and we are delighted to honor him with the Stanley Dancer Media Award," she added.



Making the presentation to Tom Luchento were Tom Charters, Leon Zimmerman USHWA-NJ President Moira Fanning [left of Luchento] and NJ Assemblyman Ronald Dancer, son of the late Stanley Dancer. On the far right is Luchento's wife, Carol.

WESTERN IDEAL COLT WINS GRAND CHAMPION TITLE

[Continues from Page 1]

In the placing of the fillies, second best was Southwind Samba, owned and bred by Southwind Farm. The Rocknroll Hanover - Swifty's Best filly was handled by Chelsea Bullock. Third-place honors went to President's Pick by Artsplace out of Presidentialintern. Leo Tinoco showed the filly for Concord Stud Farm which bred her in partnership with Frederick H. LaFlash.

A pair of trotters - Raysofgrace de Vie and Woot Woot - were placed fourth and fifth, respectively.

Raysofgrace, a daughter of Windsong's Legacy - Lightfoot, is owned and bred by Joie de Vie Farm and shown by Jose Cervantes. P. Kleinhans Racing Stable Inc. owns and bred Woot Woot. Melody Young handled the Classic Photo - Majolica filly.

Judging also took place among mares with foals, split into two age groups.

In the class of mares with younger foals, those foaled on or after April 15, 2008, first-place went to Azalea Hanover and her Western Ideal filly named Azure Bluestone, who was foaled on April 24. The Bluestone Farm entry was shown by Dominika Nawrot and Angel Gallardo.

In second was Cool Cookie and her Chocolatier filly Chocolate Cookie who was born on May 13. She is owned Jim Petruccelli and was handled by Brenda Clawges and Jody Sadowski.

Allspice Hanover and her Revenue colt Rev Up the Spice, who was foaled April 27, was third. Owned by Mona and Art Giambone, they were shown by Art Giambone and Kate Parks.

Another Revenue offspring, O No Jlo and her mother, Gary's Goal, were rated fourth. The filly, born on June 1, is owned by Elizabeth Horvath. She was shown by Marion Sumpf and Jennie Melander. In fifth was Echo and her unnamed Muscles Yankee filly born on April 22, who is owned by William B. Weaver and was shown by Ruby

Alvarez and Rey Farfan.

Three colts were judged in the mare with older foal [on or before April 14] competition.

Winning the event was Southwind Farms' Southwind Pamona and her son, Southwind Pepino, foaled on March 9. Candie Ofner and Jessie Ofner handled them.

Franks Delight and her Revenue colt Codey The Gov, foaled April 7, were judged second best. Owned by Glen Vetrano and William Duncan, they were shown by Kelly Marshall and Glen Vetrano.

Maple Lady and her unnamed Rocknroll Hanover colt, born on March 6, were ranked third. Owned by Concord Stud Farm, the pair was shown by Hugo Tinoco and Leo Tinoco.

Presenting the awards were SBOANJ President Tom Luchento and Directors Jacqueline Ingrassia and Robert Baggitt Sr.

For more photos from the SBOANJ Horse Show visit www.sboanj.com

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS NAMED

Michael E. Desjardins and Kelly Finnigan were named the winners of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey's 2008-2009 scholarships.

Each will receive \$4,000 toward their studies. The SBOANJ offers the scholarship in partnership with the Backstretch Advisory Program. The scholarships are open to the sons and daughters of New Jersey horsemen.

Desjardins, son of Michael and Donna Desjardins of East Brunswick, NJ, will major in communications and broadcast journalism at Quinnipiac College in Hamden, CT.

Finnigan, daughter of Gary and Mary Finnigan of Wall, NJ, will attend Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ. She plans to transfer to a four-year college to major in molecular biology.

DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT: TOM LUCHENTO

Tom Luchento came with a letter of recommendation but his long hair, biker boots and leather jacket nearly stopped his horse training career before it started.

He had shown up at Anthony Abbatiello's standardbred farm in Colts Neck, NJ, looking like a troublemaker from Hudson County. Initially, Abbatiello turned Luchento away.

"But my mother plied him with trays of meatballs and lasagna, and Tony couldn't resist the food," Luchento recalled, laughing. "If he wanted the food, he had to take the son on."

With the "tuition" paid, Luchento apprenticed under Abbatiello, starting part-time in 1959 and also while he completed Madison Township [now Old Bridge] High School in 1964.

When he was 20, Luchento opened his own stable, driving at Atlantic City Raceway, Freehold and, since 1976, at the Meadowlands.

"I got lucky and had one drive a day for six days straight at Freehold and won each day," noted Luchento. "From there, the stable took off."

In 1989, Luchento stopped driving and concentrated on training horses and opened Luchento's Country Italian Restaurant on Route 33 in Millstone, NJ, walking distance to the training centers at Gaitway and Showplace Farms.

Luchento's Restaurant has been a family business for 17 years. Tom's wife, Carol, co-owns and manages the restaurant while older son Tommy, 45, [married to Jackie] is executive chef. Younger son, Gary, 38, heads the hot foods division of the Shop Rite Corporation.

Daughter Kristen, 30, [married to Peter Roselle] reps for Prometheus Pharmaceuticals and is expecting her first child. Tom's parents, 83-year-old Nat and 80-year-old Carmella, still work in the kitchen.

The restaurant is also a few miles down the road from the offices of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey.

"I wanted to keep involved in racing even as the restaurant was taking more of my time," he noted. "I know how hard it is for horsemen and this – joining the SBOANJ Board of Directors – was my way of giving back."

Luchento has been the SBOANJ president the last three years,

There still is a bit of the Jersey City kid – the one that attended PS 35 and PS 23 before his family moved to Parlin – that serves Luchento and the SBOANJ well when he negotiates on behalf of the horsemen.

He credits much of what has been accomplished during his presidency to his cohesive and hardworking board of directors.

"The members of this board do not get credit for all the personal time they put in without compensation," Luchento continued. "They take a lot of heat for things they can't control.

"No one understands how much effort it takes to be a director," he said. "This is a working board. They roll up their sleeves and step in, and they've all done a tremendous job. I want to especially thank my executive director, Leo McNamara."

There are challenging times ahead for the SBOANJ and President Luchento.

It might be time to bring out Carmella Luchento's lasagna to help settle any disputes.



Muscle Shirt, by Muscles Yankee, captured the \$70,000 Helen Smith on August 15 at Freehold with Cat Manzi driving. The Chuck Sylvester filly won the SBOANJ-sponsored stake in 1:56.3. Photo by World Wide Racing Photos.

Date	Est. Purse	SBOANJ Stakes@Freehold
9/9	\$7,500	Harold Dancer Filly Elims 2ft
9/10	\$7,500	Harold Dancer Open Elims 2t
9/16	\$80,000	Harold Dancer Filly Final 2ft
9/17	\$70,000	Harold Dancer Open Final 2t
9/27	\$55,000	NJ Futurity 3p
10/10	\$45,000	NJ Futurity 3t
10/15	\$60,000	NJ Futurity 2t
10/17	\$10,000	Charles Smith Elims 3t
10/24	\$100,000	Charles Smith Final 3t
10/24	\$75,000	NJ Futurity 2p

FALL 2008 NEW JERSEY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Sept. 15	Board Meeting	Oct. 1	NJ Racing Commission at Meadowlands
Sept. 16	NJ Sire Stakes Meeting	Oct. 19	SRF National Rescue Ride
Sept. 28	National Championship Standardbred Horse Show, Horse Park of NJ. For info www.standardbredpleasurehorse.org	Oct. 24	SBOANJ Membership Meeting & Election [3 p.m.] & USTA District 12 Meeting [11 a.m.], Renaissance Room, Freehold
Sept. 30	Insurance Meeting	Oct. 28	Insurance Meeting



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INSIDE THE FALL 2008 ISSUE OF THE PACESETTER ...



Chicky Sorbello [above] just missed but both Brian McNeill and John Ciofalo [right] sunk a putt to tie in the putting competition that took place on July 14 at the SBOANJ Golf Outing at Gambler Ridge in Cream Ridge, NJ. More than 100 golfers participated and helped the fund raising efforts for the Horsemen's Benevolent Fund. Photos by Carol Hodes

For more on the golf outing, visit page 3.



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