



President's Update

By Dan Sullivan



Two Months and Running

I write this article on behalf of the Illinois Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Foundation with a sense of pride. We have taken over the Illinois Racing News and we have been able to publish two months of the Magazine and this will make three months. I thank Joan Colby for helping guide us through this start up. I thank Dan Arrigo for his tireless efforts on behalf of the ITBOF. Their efforts have made this takeover of the publication possible.

I want to put this effort in context. ITBOF is not replete with funds. Basically we operate with one employee and outsource every other service that Dan cannot provide. No officers or directors are paid, so shame on me. Some of these services include an annual audit required by statute so that not only do our members have access to our financials, we report to the Governor, the legislature and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. We hold an annual stallion auction. We provide an annual honors banquet. We support all breeders in complying with the Illinois breeding requirements. We organize, track and pay Breeder Awards. We have contracted benefits for Illinois breeders who race homebreds with Arlington International Racecourse. We maintain two lobbyists to manage our never-ending effort to get parity with the surrounding states with legislation allowing gaming for the tracks. We sponsor two futurities for Illinois bred horses. We take positions on matters that adversely affect Illinois bred horses that arise before the Illinois Racing Board. These are some of our services that are provided on a limited amount of money paid based upon total Breeder Awards paid.

So, when we learned the publisher was shutting down the IRN, we contemplated taking over the publication within the context of 1.) Can we afford to do it; and, 2.) How can we act as a publisher of the IRN? None of us involved with undertaking a publication had any idea on how we could further such an undertaking. On the can we afford it front, we contemplated a publication every quarter. We thought about publishing only an electronic edition.

I ended up piling more on Dan Arrigo by deciding to publish every month. But, budget constraints imposed a requirement to publish a paper edition every other month. On alternative months the magazine is published electronically. Please locate that publication on our website, which has been continually upgraded with the information and the services supplied. Please visit it at ITBOF.net. Also, review our website and give us comments on how we can make it even more responsive to matters concerning you.

Why did we do it? That is, take over the IRN. A decision was made to do everything we could to resist the downward spiral of Illinois racing. Rather than lose the IRN as a continuing threat of death by a thousand cuts, we decided it was worthwhile to try to keep the IRN. We decided it was worthwhile to do everything we could to keep Illinois racing viable and to keep disseminating news of Illinois racing statewide.

We need your input on what you would like to see in the

Magazine. We need your support by your joining ITBOF as a paid member so you get a subscription to the Magazine as just one benefit. We need your active participation. But even if you don't want to participate actively, please consider subscribing to the Magazine.

Please consider helping, because most of all we need a continuation of a vibrant Illinois program that can support the breeding that presently furnishes at least half of all horses races in every meet at every Illinois track.

Please give Illinois racing a chance by supporting the ITBOF and the existing programs.



FOAL ARRIVALS

GALLAGHER FARM



Walnut Hill, IL



2/5/16, c. by First Samurai out of Le Sang Royale. Foaled at Gallagher Farms. Breeder: Dana Waier Thoroughbreds.

RIDGEWOOD STABLES, LLC

Villa Ridge, IL



2/15/16, f. by Birdstone out of Flick. Foaled at Ridgewood Stables LLC. Owners: John & Holly Mathis.

Foals are appearing on farms across the state. Each month we will print foal arrivals. Information needed is farm and location, date of birth (optional), color, sex, sire, dam, owner, and breed-back (if known). Photos are also welcome. Send Foal Arrivals to: Illinois Racing News, 111 Shore Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, Fax: (630) 887-0210 or email: info@midwest-outdoors.com (mark for Illinois Racing News Foal Arrivals).