

For Immediate Release

Scarborough Downs
PO Box 468
Scarborough, ME 04070
www.ScarboroughDowns.com
For further information contact
Mike Sweeney, Director of Publicity
207-883-4331 x1037
msweeney@scarboroughdowns.com

Tyler Trouble and Kingstar A head list of retirees at Scarborough Downs

Scarborough, Maine (January 3, 2009) – Scarborough Downs and the Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of Maine (SPHO) once again joined forces on Saturday (January 3) to co-sponsor a moving retirement ceremony that honored the accomplishments of six local harness horses whose racing career ended at the conclusion of the 2008 season per rules set forth by United States Trotting Association.

“Two very different groups developed this ceremony with one sole purpose in mind – to honor the horses that are a source of happiness and employment and to give tribute to them as they each embark on a new journey away from the racetrack” remarked SPHO spokeswoman Jill Flaherty.

These horses have given the people around them enjoyment and occupation as well as tears and sorrow” Flaherty continued, “Without them our lives would never be as fulfilling as they are today. It is justly fitting to celebrate their professional accomplishments as they head off to new vocations today.”

Heading the list of retirees was *Tyler Trouble*, a classy son of Tyler’s Mark (1:52.1) who amassed a bankroll of \$548,664 racing primarily in overnight events. He was followed closely in earnings by the Australian-bred *Kingstar A* (1:50.4) who garnered over \$523,000 in career purses and who once bested the great Red Bow Tie in a showdown at the Meadowlands; *Bestest Behavior* (1:58 -- \$78,690), *Free Lance* (1:57.1 -- \$177,386), *Right On Goalie* (1:56.3 -- \$58,930) and *Wingswept Robin* (1:55.1 -- \$164,691) also hung up their racing bridles on Saturday as they paraded in front of the stands for one final salute from their adoring fans.

“These and countless other Standardbreds continue to demonstrate the versatility of the breed” said Scarborough Downs spokesperson Susan Higgins, “Not only do they excel in the competitive world of harness racing but they also remain ideally suited for use as pleasure horses at the conclusion of their racing careers. Their beauty and willingness never fails to amaze me.”

For further information concerning the breed (including information detailing adoption options for some of these and other retired trotters and pacers) please visit the Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of Maine’s website at www.sphomaine.net

Scarborough Downs proudly features live harness racing every Saturday and Sunday through January 11th – first post time is slated for 12:00 noon (EST).

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