## A Day at the Races Hosted by the North East Thoroughbred Sporthorse Association

A day at the races hosted by the North East Thoroughbred Sporthorse Association, (NETSA) began trackside as the morning mists rolled in and out over Suffolk Downs Racecourse in East Boston

Massachusetts. NETSA accommodated a group of interested horsemen trackside as we gathered and watched horses gallop and breeze just 50 feet away to the sound of hooves thundering by on the track.

The morning program began with speakers that joined us underneath the open pavilion and answered questions from the morning group as we watched the horses going by. Tammi Campbell- Piermarini currently leading rider at Suffolk





Downs with over 2100 wins, and now third leading female rider of all-time, accompanied by her Agent husband John Piermarini, offered opinions relative to racing surfaces and riding morning works and races. Jockey Vernon Bush, who joined the group later bringing his dedication to riding and never failing enthusiasm, along with having won over 3100 races and ridden at every track on the East Coast during the past 30 years, made for a very entertaining contributor.

Suffolk Downs Commentator, Analyst and Publicist Jessica Paquette also stopped by and fielded questions on the meaning of different kinds of races and who her favorite picks were for the day. After training hours were over and the track closed to be groomed and manicured for the day's races, the group was joined by Jim Greene, whose Eighth Pole Organization has often been cited for their excellent



help with rehabilitation and providing services for the workers on the backside at the track.

The doors of the Topsider room, located on the third floor of the Clubhouse, opened at 11:30 and we moved to the comfort of a room with a beautiful view of the track below where we were joined by those who chose to attend just the afternoon at the races. A Buffet lunch of steak tips, chicken broccoli Alfredo, with Caesar salad, rice pilaf, and some pretty serious desert was served while enjoying the beautiful spectacle of

Thoroughbred racing. The time between races was filled with interesting and informative speakers; the officers of NETSA were introduced, and explained the reasons for the formation of this new organization which is devoted to providing more opportunities for new careers for Off Track Thoroughbreds. Melody Taylor-Scott spoke about her Ebook that covers the whole re-homing process from track to competition or trail and is available at <u>www.OffTrackThoroughbredHelp.com</u>. A full program of speakers followed

including Ellen O'Brien of CANTER, retired steeplechase rider and trainer, Tom Kirlin and his wife Dawn, Scott Lombard of Corinthian Insurance, Dr. Richard Sheehan Jr. a track vet for over 25 years, and Jessica stepped in again to explain the art of handicapping the program. NETSA's Benefit Raffle of great prizes to be drawn at the horse show sold many tickets, and the Dinner at the Races for 4, generously donated by Dominic Terlizzi Director of Group Sales at Suffolk Downs, was won by Bill Pybus.

The sixth race of the afternoon was dedicated to the North East Thoroughbred Sporthorse Association. The four member Board of President Melody Taylor-Scott, Vice President Attorney Anne Ross-Raymond



Secretary Teri Scheidel, and Treasurer Velma Emery, along with perennial favorite Joe Lombard went down to the winners circle to present a trophy to the winning rider Tammi Campbell Piermarini and race horse 'Bishop of Nola's' connections.

The trophy presentation was followed immediately by a ceremony for the presentation of a check for \$2,500 to NETSA from Suffolk Downs Racecourse as a Title Sponsor to the North East Thoroughbred Sporthorse Association's

October 7<sup>th</sup> Jockey Club TIP affiliated horse show. Suffolk Downs is a longtime supporter of the effort to re-home OTTBs and find future careers for the athletes that race there.



The Suffolk Downs Grand Hunter Classic is one of the highlights to be held during the NETSA horse show on the grounds of the Saddle Rowe Show Facility in Medway, MA. The show offers a full contingent of classes for hunters from In-Hand, walk/trot, pleasure, X-rails to hunters, equitation and Medals for both OTTB's and Half Thoroughbred registered horses.

Unique to this show, while the hunter classes are being judged by Fred Hunt in the main ring, there

will be a dressage ring holding both walk/trot and walk/trot/canter tests and Judged by US Olympian Dottie Morkis.

NETSA is also hosting a pre-show Hunter Clinic with OTTB specialist, Melody Taylor-Scott on September 23 at the Great Oak Equestrian Center facility in Berlin, MA. Offering multiple sessions from first time x-rails, small fences, to advanced level, this is a great opportunity to give your horse some 'off-farm' experience before the NETSA show the following month.

For more information about NETSA, joining, sponsoring the horse show, and advertising opportunities visit <u>www.NorthEastThoroughbred.com</u>