



April 15, 2008

**TO: The Lady & Gentleman Members, Prospective Members and Friends of
The Delvin Miller Amateur Drivers Association:**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WELCOME to the 28th annual edition of the **C.K.G. Billings Amateur Driving Championship Series**. It will go to its first post in a "wild card" leg on Saturday, May 2nd at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and will be contested every week without interruption for the next 30 weeks before the regional finals and the end-of-year Delvin Miller Memorial Driving Championships this year at The Meadows. The \$375 entry fee, less for students and junior members, remains the same as last year. It is one of the best bargains in harness racing. So get out your checkbooks and send in your entry fee with your 2009 Entry Form which must be completed in full, **signed and dated**.

Enclosed are the 2009 Conditions and Rules, the 2009 Eastern Regional Series Schedule, the 2009 Mid-West Regional Series Schedule, 2009 Entry Form and the official BPO Exercise Form. While there are a couple of minor modifications to the Conditions and the Rules from those of last year which govern the 2009 Billings Series, it is important that you read and study the four pages that compose the 2009 Billings Series Conditions and Rules sheets. It is also important that you complete the 2009 Entry Form in its entirety and **sign it**. Do not assume that the DMADA has your correct contact information. Correct **cell phone numbers and internet email addresses** are most important for us to be able to easily communicate with you. **Signed 2009 Entry Forms** and membership fees are **due at the DMADA office by 5:00PM EDT on Friday, May 1, 2009 – 16 days from the date hereon**.

Once again the Billings Series has engaged Rod Newhart as the official racing administrator of the 2009 Billings Series. Like last year, Rod, as Chancellor of the Billings Series, will take entries for all Billings Series legs except those legs where the entry call-in number is specified in bold italics on the Schedules. Other than at those specified venues, entries are to be called into Rod in accordance with Condition C. The official Billings Series entries call-in number is **(609) 439-5375** (or for those of us impaired by frequent senior moments **(609) HEY – JERK**) !!! Entries must be called into Rod by **5:00PM Central Time** on the day before the declaration and draw date for the race date on which a Billings Series leg is to be contested. Declarations can be made by leaving a voicemail on the Billings Chancellor's telephone. When calling in an entry, it is **critical** that you or your agent identify oneself and record the name of the Billings host racetrack at which you intend to race, the name of the horse, the driver, the trainer, medications the horse will race on (ie. lasix or bute where permitted) and whether the horse wears hobbles. In addition, you or your agent must record a contact telephone number. To assure that your entry at each leg has been received and recorded, you are advised to send an email confirming your entry to billingsentries@gmail.com.

Like last year, payment of the \$375.00 (US Funds) Regular Member fee will entitle each subscriber the opportunity to race in any leg and all legs of the Eastern Regional Series and the Mid-West Regional Series. Points as in previous years will be awarded in each Regional Series in accordance with which region a host racetrack is domiciled. Of the 57 legs currently scheduled in the 2009 Billings Series, 19 legs will be "Wild Card" legs at which points will be awarded in both Regional Series.

In the Finals and Consolation Finals of each Regional Series points will again be awarded in those events to each participant. Unlike last year, they will be awarded at 175% of those awarded in accordance with the Billings Point Scoring System recited in Condition H. Upon conclusion of each of the Regional Series Finals and Consolation Finals, each of the Regional Series champions together with the next 4 highest point earners in each Regional Series counting the 12 highest earned point starts plus the points earned in each Regional Final or Consolation Final will gain entry into the Delvin Miller Memorial Gold Cup to be contested at The Meadows on Monday, December 7, 2009. Those members who are among the next 5 highest point earners in each Regional Series will gain entry into the Silver Cup race at The Meadows. In addition, subject to it filling, we will contest a Bronze Cup on the same date at The Meadows which will include those who raced in the Regional Series Finals and Consolation Finals not qualifying for the Gold or Silver Cup races together with others who competed frequently but failed to gain entry into a Regional Final or Consolation Final. Points for all legs will be posted on the points schedules on the Billings Series webpage.

Once again, in accordance with Condition B, every horse entered in a Billings Series leg other than horses entered with a Claiming Price or horses entered at Pompano Park, The Meadowlands Hambletonian Amateur, the Gentleman's Driver Trot at Lexington and Canada-based host racetracks is eligible to be purchased for \$20,000 by any member of the Billings Series competing in that leg. Members exercising a Billings Purchase Option ("BPO") must make payment by certified check, cashier's

check or legal bank draft (personal checks and cash are not acceptable). Like last year for the BPO to be perfected, the member exercising the BPO **must complete and have witnessed by a Billings Series member the Official BPO Exercise Form** which is enclosed. If a BPO is exercised in accordance with Condition B and the parties connected with the horse on which a BPO has been exercised fail to comply and to transfer the horse, the driver of that horse will forfeit the points earned in that race will be imposed a point penalty and the horse on which the BPO has been exercised will be banned from further competition in the 2009 Billings Series and the year end events.

Also, Condition J -- which provides the guidelines under which one-handed whipping can occur in Billings Series races -- has been modified to adopt, other than at those venues which have adopted a more restrictive rule on whipping, the USTA's whipping rule. Drivers who violate Condition J or are adjudged to have violated the host venue whipping rule will be accorded a 10 point penalty. Multiple violations could result in membership suspension. To safely avoid violation of Condition J, members are advised to maintain both hands in the handholds of the reins the entire race.

The 2009 Billings Series again will be contested in two regional competitions. The enclosed schedules for each of the Regional Series are the **official schedules** and are for the most part confirmed. Please take care to note the entry call-in number for each venue. Entries for certain venues will be made directly to the host racetrack and not to the Billings Chancellor. It is likely that there will be additional changes, substitutions and cancellations as the two Series progress. We will do our best to apprise all members of the changes as they are made. The fastest way to be kept apprised is by email, so include your email address (or that of a "connected" friend if you do not have one) on your Entry Form.

Once again, a Student Membership, a Junior Membership and a Patron Membership are offered. Drivers may join the Billings Series at 16 years old. To be eligible for membership, a driver must hold minimally a "Q/F" or equivalent driving license. A "Q/F" licensed driver will be restricted generally to driving in legs that will be contested at fair and matinee venues only. To drive in a Billings Series leg scheduled at an extended pari-mutuel venues, a driver must hold a "P", "A" or equivalent license, unless the host venue permits otherwise.

Pursuant to Condition J, the required claiming authorization paperwork for a horse entered in a Billings leg with a claiming price must be in order and on file at the host racetrack prior to contesting the leg. If it is not, the horse is likely to be scratched by the judges. In addition if a member wishes to claim a horse out of a Billings leg, the claimant, as is custom, must present a properly completed claiming form and a certified bank check for the amount of the claiming price to the presiding judge at least 30 minutes prior to post time for the race or the claim will be voided. The DMADA offers a standard Claiming Authorization form and a standard Claiming Form that can be downloaded from its web page on the USTA's website.

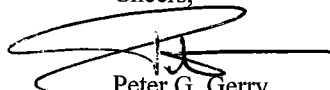
As in previous Billings Series, it is incumbent upon each of us to exhaust every effort to procure our own mount for each leg before contacting the race offices of our respective host racetracks to assist in arranging mounts. Undoubtedly, several of our legs will be out of a participant's region and it will be necessary to contact the race office for referrals to local horsemen to procure a mount. Please be cordial and charming when seeking mounts at distant host tracks. The race offices will respond accordingly.

The success of the 2009 Billings Series will be determined by the size of our membership and active participation. If you have an acquaintance or know of someone who knows someone else who knows an individual who might like to compete, send him or her our way. All of the 2009 Billings Series documents are posted on the Internet on the Standardbred Driving Clubs webpage of the USTA's website (www.ustrotting.com) and can be downloaded. Also, any person interested in joining the Billings Series can contact our headquarters by telephone at (845) 294-6330 and we will mail them this package of information.

Don't delay. Sign up today by sending in your **signed** Entry Form and membership fee. More importantly, come out and compete in the 2009 Billings Series. Corral, badger and coerce your friends into doing the same. This is the best investment in the fun and the camaraderie that is unique to harness racing. And who knows, you and they might just win. The 2009 Billings Series is ours to make as the truly *The Greatest Traveling Sideshow* in the sport of harness racing in North America.

Good luck, good racing and as always, may all who start finish. And finish a Winner!

Cheers,



Peter G. Gerry
President

Enclosures

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