

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Scarborough Downs**

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## ***Ideal Conditions* heads Mid-Summer Classic Field**

**Scarborough, Maine (July 8, 2008)** – The Mid-Summer Classic, a mainstay of the New England harness scene during the 1980s and 1990s will experience a resplendent rebirth on Friday (July 11) as Scarborough Downs reinstates the \$20,000 Invitational Pace as a vehicle to help celebrate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the town of Scarborough, Maine.

“We have made a concerted effort to beef up our stakes calendar this season,” said Scarborough spokeswoman Susan Higgins, “and the renewal of the Mid Summer Classic coincided perfectly with the town of Scarborough’s 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our event is sort of a kickoff for all the hoopla that will overtake the town this weekend – we’re expecting a great turnout at the races on Friday.”

***Ideal Conditions*** has been installed as the 5-2 morning line favorite as the New York shipper roars into town boasting back-to-back wins at Saratoga and Yonkers Raceway for local owner Scott Dillon of Anson, Maine. **Jonathan Roberts**, a leading driver at Rockingham Park, will van in on race day to sulky-sit the 6-year-old son of ***Western Ideal*** who took his lifetime mark of 1:50.1 last season at The Meadowlands, and who boasts a recent half-mile seasonal best score of 1:52.4 at Saratoga.

No stranger to the Pine Tree State, ***Chewy Gross*** treks up I-95 from Harrington Raceway on Friday to be placed under the care of local trainer, Valerie Grondin, courtesy of New York state owner, Martin Scharf. The veteran pacing machine equaled the state of Maine pacing standard of 1:52.4 at Bangor Raceway last season; a mark that was originally established by ***Hotrod Falcon*** at Scarborough Downs in 1993. The 9-year-old son of ***Jenna’s Beach Boy*** whose career best of 1:49.3 taken at Plainridge Racecourse still stands as the fastest clocking by an aged gelding in New England shows no apparent concession to age having just recently passed the \$800,000 plateau in lifetime purse earnings.

***Armbro Damien***’s invitation paves the way for the return to the seaside oval by Maine native, Ron Cushing, who has been tabbed to drive for local owner John Brophy of Castine, Maine. Just shy of the \$300,000 career bankroll mark, ***Armbro Damien*** was a recent combatant at Rockingham Park where his blazing 1:50.3 effort was good enough for third place in the final of the \$50,000 New Hampshire Sweepstakes.

***Diamonds Revenge*** matches up well for trainer/driver Brewer Adams and the Foulk Stables of Dover, Delaware, having just passed the \$200,000 lifetime earnings level last week at Harrington Raceway – his lifetime mark of 1:52.1, taken on Harrington’s twice-around stands him in good stead.

**Johnny Walker**, campaigned by the brother and sister team of Bobby and Patty Sumner for owners Gary and Beverly Paganelli completes the Invitational field. The hard-hitting son of **Keystone Raider** enters off back-to-back sterling prep efforts at Yonkers raceway following a recent layoff, and currently rides an impressive four-race win streak over Open-level competition along the Michigan circuit.

**The \$20,000 Mid Summer Classic** has been carded as the ninth race on the Friday twilight card at Scarborough Downs, with first post time scheduled for 4:15 pm (EDT). In conjunction with the Town of Scarborough's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary, free Re/Max tethered hot air balloon rides will be available on the grandstand lawn between the hours of 6 and 8 pm (weather permitting).

Scarborough Downs proudly showcases live harness racing every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening at 4:15 pm (EDT). The popular Sunday matinees feature a 1:30 pm post time.

## **The \$20,000 Mid-Summer Classic**

Friday July 11, 2008 – Race 9 – Approx. Post 7:00 pm

<i>Post</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Driver</i>	<i>Trainer</i>	
<i>ML Odds</i>				
<b>1 –</b>	<b>Diamonds Revenge</b>	<b>Brewer Adams</b>	<b>Brewer Adams</b>	<b>5-1</b>
<b>2 –</b>	<b>Armbro Damien</b>	<b>Ron Cushing</b>	<b>John Gerow</b>	<b>9-2</b>
<b>3 –</b>	<b>Chewy Gross</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Valerie Grondin</b>	<b>7-2</b>
<b>4 –</b>	<b>Ideal Conditions</b>	<b>Jonathan Roberts</b>	<b>Joseph Nelson</b>	<b>5-2</b>
<b>5 –</b>	<b>Johnny Walker</b>	<b>Robert Sumner</b>	<b>Patricia Sumner</b>	<b>7-1</b>

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