



# TOC

Thoroughbred  
Owners of  
California

## Winter Newsletter

January 2020

### President's Letter

By Greg Avioli



#### *How About Some Good News?*

2020 presents a number of challenges for those of us who love Thoroughbred racing. The reality is that the world we live in today is significantly different than it was just one year ago in terms of the level of media, government and public discussion regarding horse welfare and safety.

In the face of these headwinds, the California horse racing industry has come together in unprecedented fashion to institute statewide safety and welfare reforms that no doubt make our sport safer for our horses and jockeys. Detailed information about all of these reforms can be found on the California Horse Racing Board website ([chrh.ca.gov](http://chrh.ca.gov)) under the Racing Safety tab.

Beyond the safety and welfare improvements there are a number of positive developments in California racing that have been largely drowned out by the seemingly incessant negative media coverage of the past year. These include:

- ADW wagering in California continued to be strong, with more than \$1.5 billion wagered in 2019 generating over \$25 million in purses.
- In Northern California, Golden Gate Fields is experiencing its best racing in years highlighted in 2019 by a 5% increase in runners and a 6.5% increase in total handle to \$536 million.
- California remains far and away the number one state for graded racing. In 2020, Santa Anita will run 94 stakes at the current Winter Spring meet, including 60 graded stakes, with purses totaling \$16.5 million. Golden Gate Fields will run 12 stakes during its Winter Spring meet, including two graded stakes, with purses totaling \$1,175,000.
- The 2019 Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita set multiple records including:
  - o An all-time Breeders' Cup wagering record of \$175 million for the two days of racing.
  - o Total attendance of 109,054 – the fourth highest in the prestigious event's 36-year history.
- The 30th anniversary of Cal Cup, exclusively for CalBreds, was extremely well supported at the entry box with lucrative purses offered throughout the 9-race card.
- Last but not least the horse racing industry stands to benefit significantly from the California Sports Wagering Regulation and Unlawful Gambling Enforcement Act. If passed by the voters in November of 2020 as an amendment to the state constitution, this ballot initiative would allow year-round sports wagering at Santa Anita, Golden Gate Fields, Del Mar, and Los Alamitos that is projected to generate millions of new purse subsidies for California Thoroughbred owners.

On behalf of myself and the full TOC Board we want to express our sincere thanks to every Thoroughbred owner in California. We very much appreciate you!



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# TOC EVENTS

## Tax Planning

### TAX PLANNING

Live-streamed Webinar  
Saturday, February 1  
Registration Now Open

## New Owner Orientation

### ORIENTATIONS for NEW OWNERS

Santa Anita &  
Golden Gate Fields  
Saturday, February 22  
Registration Now Open



### RACEHORSE RETIREMENT

Live-streamed Webinar  
Saturday, March 28  
Registration Opens Feb. 28

## JEFF BLOOM AND RICHARD ROSENBERG JOIN TOC BOARD



*Jeff Bloom*

marketing and media relations consultant, and broadcaster. He founded and runs Bloom Racing Stable, LLC, that has campaigned numerous stakes winners including potential 2019 Horse of the Year, Midnight Bisou. Bloom earned a B.S. degree in financial services from San Diego State University. Extremely passionate about racehorses and their overall



*Richard Rosenberg*

At its October board meeting, the TOC Board unanimously approved the appointment of Jeff Bloom and Richard Rosenberg as directors, to fill vacancies created by the resignation of Mike Pegram and Dr. Mark Dedomenico. Pegram stepped down after ten years as a director, including five years as chairman of the board. Dedomenico served on the board since 2011, during which time he chaired the TOC Medication Committee. According to TOC Bylaws, Bloom and Rosenberg will be required to run for the board in the next TOC election (June 2020).

Bloom has been actively involved in the Thoroughbred racing industry for more than 35 years. He has been a professional jockey, racing manager and bloodstock agent, welfare, he is a member of the executive board for the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.

Rosenberg served on the California Horse Racing Board from 2009 to 2016 and was Vice Chairman the final three years. He was the worldwide head of the music department of the William Morris Agency, founding partner of Regency Artists, and president of Triad Artists. He received his B.S. from UCLA and LLD from UCLA Law. He practiced law in Beverly Hills for more than 11 years, also serving as president of the Beverly Hills Barristers and as a director of the Beverly Hills Bar Association. He raced standardbreds for many years and currently races Thoroughbreds in southern California.



### Santa Anita's Owner/Trainer Lounge (Stretch Run Suites)

This special area is available for you to use at your leisure. You and a guest may access the new lounge upon presentation of a valid CHRB license. FrontRunner kitchen will feature food from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. daily.

There will also be a two-drink complimentary maximum per person, with additional drinks from a cash bar as usual. It is located above aisles (pole markers) "H" and "I" where the box seat area meets the Grandstand. Santa Anita management is looking forward to welcoming owners and trainers and hopes the new space is well received and utilized. If you haven't checked it out yet, you are encouraged to do so. It's a great place to watch the races and socialize with friends.

# TOC Board Election Process Begins

The nomination process for candidates for the TOC board begins this month. There are two ways that members may qualify for the ballot – nomination by the nominating committee or nomination by petition.

To qualify for board service, an individual must hold a current California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) owner's license, own at least 25% of a Thoroughbred racehorse, have started a horse or horses a minimum of six times in California during the prior calendar year, and be a member in good standing.

TOC Board member duties include attendance at monthly board and committee meetings and periodic attendance at CHRB and/or other industry events. Board members receive no compensation for their service, though reimbursements for necessary travel and lodging expenses are made.

There are a total of 15 directors on TOC's board, with members serving three-year staggered terms, such that five seats are up for election each year. According to TOC bylaws, at least two but no more than six directors must be from the owner/trainer class of members; of the owner/trainer directors, at least one must be from the Northern Zone and at least one must be from the Southern Zone; and at least three of the total number of directors must be from the Northern Zone at any given time. All qualified members, regardless of membership class as defined in TOC Bylaws, shall have the right to vote for nominees from both the owner and owner/trainer classes of members.

**To Qualify by Nomination:** Owners interested in serving on the board should submit a letter to the nominating committee by February 15, including the reasons for wishing to serve on the board, confirmation of eligibility for the board, and a biographical statement. If sent by mail, these materials should be addressed to the TOC Nominating Committee, 285 W. Huntington Dr., Arcadia, CA 91007, and postmarked by February 15. Those expressing interest will be informed of the committee's decision by March 1, with announcement of the nominees made soon thereafter.

**To Qualify by Petition:** Those seeking to run for the board through the Petition Process must qualify by obtaining 50 signatures from current TOC members supporting the candidacy on a petition issued by TOC. To obtain the petition form, contact TOC's Santa Anita office at (626) 574-6620. The deadline for filing a completed petition is March 1.

Ballots and candidate statements are mailed out to all TOC members on May 15. The postmark deadline for returned ballots is June 15, and the newly elected board members will take office on July 1.

## TAKE FLIGHT TODAY

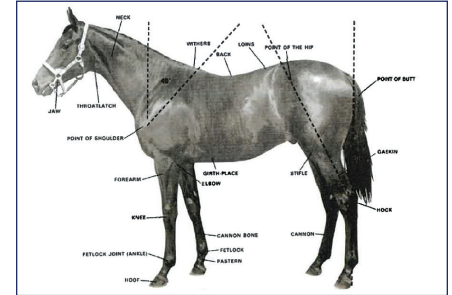
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## SPECIAL OFFER FOR TOC MEMBERS

As a TOC Member, you'll receive one complimentary hour of flight time AND a \$2,500 betting voucher to your choice of Santa Anita racetrack, Del Mar racetrack or Churchill Downs with your Jet Card purchase.

# TOC EVENTS



## CONFORMATION CLINICS

Santa Anita &  
Golden Gate Fields  
Saturday, June 6

Registration Opens May 6



## OPEN FORUM

Pleasanton  
Saturday, June 20

Registration Opens May 20



## NEW OWNER SEMINAR

followed by  
BARN TOUR

Del Mar  
Sunday, July 19

Registration Opens June 19

# Participation Purses Significantly Increased

To offset the workers' compensation insurance per-start increase and in an effort to provide additional relief to California owners, who were hit with general increases in costs for racing during the past year, the Guaranteed Participation Purses were increased from \$351 to \$500 per start in Southern California and from \$300 to \$450 at Golden Gate Fields.

Guaranteed participation purses are paid to owners of horses competing in all races in which their horses do not finish first through fifth. They are designed to help owners cover core costs involved in getting their horses to the races – such as the new mandatory vet exam fee required by the CHR. Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, horses finishing sixth and beyond (and to fifth place finishers when their share of purse money is less than the corresponding Guaranteed Participation Purse) shall be paid \$500 to start in Southern California and \$450 to start at Golden Gate Fields.

As a result of major increases in workers' compensation insurance costs in California, it was necessary to increase the per-start fee from \$106 to \$120 – which covers the owners' portion of funding for the program. The per-start fee will continue to be automatically deducted from the owner's paymaster account every time they start a horse. This change went into effect at Santa Anita Park and Golden Gate Fields January 1.

"The TOC appreciates the intense economic pressure that Thoroughbred owners in California have been under in the past year," said TOC chairman Nick Alexander. "We have experienced flat purses and rising costs of business, including the new safety reforms that the owners have been required to fund on their own and a substantial increase in CHR expenses that are funded 50% from the statewide purse accounts and which will exceed \$14.5 million this year. TOC's decision to increase participation purses is meant to assist owners with these expenses and encourage them to continue to run in California."

Alexander concluded, "Looking to the future we are hopeful that working with the CHR and the racetracks we can come up with a more equitable sharing of expenses so that we have enough owners and racehorses in California to allow our sport to grow and thrive in the future."

## ASK THE VET

We know owners often have questions about veterinary treatment and billing, so TOC is launching a new service, "Ask the Vet," which will allow you to have your questions answered by Southern California's leading veterinarians. The new service will be available on the TOC website in March.

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## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA UPDATE

As you usher in 2020, plan to spend a day at beautiful Golden Gate Fields. A few key days to mark on your calendar are Saturday, Feb. 16, for the \$100,000 El Camino Real Derby for 3-year-olds which offers 10 Kentucky Derby points and an all-expense paid berth to the Preakness. Two other days are April 25-26 which is the second annual Gold Rush Weekend. Gold Rush weekend comprises eight stakes races totaling \$850,000 in purses, including the San Francisco Mile Gr III and two Ca Bred stakes races for 3yos.

When attending Golden Gate Fields on a Saturday or Sunday, feel free to stop by to meet TOC Northern California Liaison Wayne Atwell ([watwell@toconline.com](mailto:watwell@toconline.com)). The TOC office is located on the clubhouse level next to the Horse Wizards room.

As we conclude 2019, we would like to congratulate GGF Fall Meet leading owners Tommy Town Thoroughbreds LLC, Robert G. A. Jones, Hat Trick Racing (Tony Onorato), and Scott Herberson each with five wins, Tommy Town Thoroughbreds for leading money earnings of \$147,220, and Rozamund Barclay for total starts with 35.



# TOC

Thoroughbred Owners of California  
*Serving the California  
Thoroughbred Racehorse Owner*

## Contact Us

285 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007

Phone: (626) 574-6620

Email: [info@toconline.com](mailto:info@toconline.com) Website: [toconline.com](http://toconline.com)