



# TOC

Thoroughbred Owners of California

## Summer Newsletter

July 2021

### Chairman's Letter

By Gary Fenton



### ENJOY YOUR SUMMER

As I sat down to write this Chairman's Letter I was struck by how much great news we have to be excited about this summer and beyond for California racing. Before I get into specifics, I want to take a moment to thank all TOC members for your continued commitment and personal investment over the past two years in returning California to its rightful spot as one of the premiere racing jurisdictions in America. We all know the past two years have been extremely difficult for horse owners in California on any number of levels. In the face of this adversity, the way that TOC membership has come through for our sport, our industry, and most importantly for our horses has been nothing short of remarkable.

So back to the good news.

- ❖ California's equine safety numbers are the best on record. Data from the CHRB for the two fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, and 2021 show a decrease in catastrophic injuries of over 55% since 2019. Incredible effort and progress by our community.
- ❖ Statewide purse accounts are strong across the board. Thanks to purse enhancements contributed by our ADW partners TVG and 1/st Racing, Del Mar begins the summer with record purses. In addition, at Santa Anita Park, on the heels of this past winter's (10%) across the board purse increase, we are currently in negotiations for additional purse increases for 2022. Finally, Golden Gate has been able to maintain purse levels in Northern California despite a number of COVID-related handle challenges.
- ❖ With the purse accounts positioned well through the end of 2022, California racing will benefit in a big way starting in 2023 from the likely passage of the California Legalize Sports Betting ballot initiative. The expected passage of this initiative – which formally secured the necessary signatures to be on the 2022 statewide ballot earlier this month – should add millions of new purses and racetrack revenues for our industry.

Finally, we are all very excited that the 37th running of the Breeders' Cup World Championships is just around the corner with the best Thoroughbred racing in the world set to take place November 6-7 at Del Mar. All indications point towards record levels of entries and wagering handle as we showcase the best of California racing to a global audience.

NOV 5 & 6 **BREEDERS' CUP** DEL MAR

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Contact Breeders' Cup Racing or Del Mar Racing department for more details.

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### UPCOMING TOC EVENTS

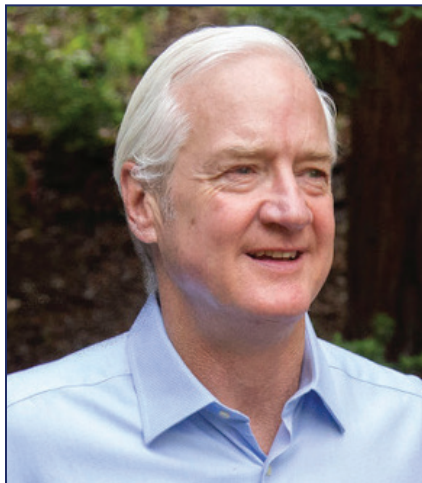
In accordance with local health authority protocols, TOC has tentatively scheduled the following events through the end of the year. Our annual events at Del Mar will be on Sunday, July 18, TOC's New Owner Seminar, and on Saturday, August 14, our Southern California Annual Meeting. Our Northern California Annual Meeting will be held at Golden Gate Fields on Saturday, October 23. Also of note to owners: Breeders' Cup Pre-entry Deadline is October 25.

To stay in the loop, please visit our website at [www.toconline.com](http://www.toconline.com) and subscribe to our email list to receive the latest news and updates.

# Hands-On Ownership

*An Interview with Lindsay LaRoche*

By Mary Forney



*Lindsay LaRoche*

Like so many racing fans, Thoroughbred racehorse owner and newly elected TOC board member Lindsay LaRoche was introduced to the sport at an early age.

“I was about nine or ten years old,” he recounts, “and my dad – who traveled a fair amount for his job – would take his boys out individually for some time together. I had seen the

horses run at the Calgary Stampede, so I always asked to go to the races.” A native of Alberta, Canada, he quickly became familiar with Stampede Park in Calgary and Northlands Park in Edmonton.

LaRoche’s career with the Royal Bank of Canada took him to New York 25 years ago. After ten years on the east coast, he moved to the California Bay Area, where he established the first credit-derivative-based hedge fund and where he finally took the leap into horse ownership.

“I always loved the game, the horses, the action, the odds,” said LaRoche, reflecting on his introduction to ownership. “I told my wife when we got married that I would love to own a racehorse someday.” Like many, they started in partnerships and syndicates. Eventually they established their own stable, Highland Yard.

“Joining a syndicate was a wonderful experience that enabled me to learn a lot about the game, meet a couple of trainers, and so much more. Eventually I came to the conclusion that I could buy my own horse, go out on my own, and have my own franchise so to speak,” he continued. “Now we have about ten horses in training – five or six at Golden Gate Fields, one in New York, and a couple in Ireland.”

What pulled him in to the game, and what still keeps him engaged every day, is the hands-on aspect of ownership.

“I really enjoy managing the stable, working with trainers, finding the horses – really everything about it.” He finds he can be more “hands on” with the small

trainers – such as O.J. Jauregui, who has a total of about 20 horses in his barn. “With a smaller barn, you get to have more input, more impact, and a closer relationship with your trainer,” he said.

When asked about the best horse he has ever campaigned, LaRoche can only narrow it down to his top three – Amaranth, Walk Close, and Princess Yaiza.

“Amaranth was a really fun horse, who won the Pleasanton Oaks by seven lengths and went on to win a few stakes including the Desert Stormer and the Sen. Ken Maddy at Santa Anita,” he said. “Then there was our first graded stakes winner, Walk Close, who won the Modesty at Arlington.” He eventually bred her and produced the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile second-place finisher, Anneau d’Or. “

The filly that gave the LaRoches their biggest thrill in racing to date would have to be Princess Yaiza, winner of the Prix de Royallieu at Longchamp in France. “Longchamp does a lovely job for the winners – champagne toasts, an artist rendering of our horse, and a trophy presentation by Criquette Head,” he explained.

As a newly elected board member (see article on page 3), LaRoche will represent Northern California. “Northern California is essential to our racing circuit,” he said. “More resources should be allocated to Northern California, including the Golden State Series races.”

LaRoche has a keen understanding of business dynamics and their application to racing. “Our industry dynamics are circular,” he explained. “Increased field size yields increased handle; increased handle yields larger purses; larger purses yield new owners and larger foal crops. I intend to focus on these dynamics.”

TOC welcomes Lindsay LaRoche to the board of directors and thanks him for his willingness to serve as a representative of our more than 6,000 members.



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# TOC Members Re-elect 3 Incumbents, 2 New Members to Board

TOC's membership re-elected incumbents Rick Gold, Stephanie Hronis, and Ed Moger and elected new members Ryan Hanson and Lindsay LaRoche to its Board of Directors. All five were elected to three-year terms. The new Board officially takes office on July 1st.

Gold has served on the board for four years. He is chair of TOC's Medication and Integrity committee, a member of the Executive, Finance, and Wagering committees, and serves as TOC's representative on the board of the Racing Medication and Testing Committee (RMTC.) A semi-retired Silicon Valley entrepreneur, he resides in San Diego.

Hronis was initially appointed to fill a board vacancy last Fall. She chairs the Owner Relations Committee. Hronis Racing has been a leader in the California owner standings for several years and in 2020 made 168 starts for 23 wins including three stakes victories.

Moger has served on the board since 2010 and is an active member of the Executive and Medication committees and chairman of the Northern California Racing Affairs Committee. A trainer for over 45 years, he also breeds and raises Thoroughbreds in Northern California.

Hanson is a fourth-generation horseman who worked as an exercise rider and assistant trainer before moving to Santa Anita in 2017 as

a trainer. Since then his stable has grown to over 20 head, and he has campaigned world champion distance runner Honoroso as well as several graded stakes winners.

LaRoche joins the board as a Northern California representative. A resident of Lafayette, CA for 20 years, he and his wife, Deborah, run Highland Yard stable, with several horses in training at Golden Gate Fields and in Southern California.

The newly elected Directors join Nick Alexander, Joe Ciaglia, Gary Fenton, Mike Harrington, Bob Liewald, Terry Lovingier, Jack Owens, Richard Rosenberg, Samantha Siegel, and Bill Strauss in comprising TOC's 2021-22 Board.

A total of 6,003 ballots were mailed out to eligible voters, and 1,579 qualifying ballots were received. The complete vote tally is available for viewing on TOC's web site at [www.toconline.com](http://www.toconline.com).

Current TOC bylaws require that at least three board members be from Northern California. Representing Northern California on the Board are LaRoche, Moger, and Owens. TOC bylaws require at least two and no more than six owner-trainers on the board, and representing the owner-trainer seats are Harrington, Hanson, and Moger.

## Northern California Update

At the time of this writing, the governor says the State of Emergency still exists, but personally it feels like the worst part of the pandemic is over! Many of us have our Covid-19 vaccination card, can go to a restaurant, and can travel on a plane... things are looking up. Owners and fans are back at the track, kids are playing in the aisles, smiles of being outside enjoying the excitement of horse racing can be seen throughout the clubhouse. Owners can visit their horses in the backstretch and have their picture taken in the winner's circle. The GGF Gold Rush stakes weekend was a great success, and Pleasanton began their 5-week CARF meet on June 18 with owner incentives and four stakes at \$75,000. The breeding season has ended, the summer stabling issues have been resolved, and summer racing is here with lots to look forward to!

We heard from many of our members this winter during the time racing was suspended and fans/owners were not allowed to attend the races by the Berkeley Health Department Officials. It was a difficult time for everyone, and your feedback was very much appreciated. We welcome your continued feedback, and when you are attending Golden Gate Fields on a Saturday or Sunday or just want to share your thoughts feel free to stop by to meet TOC Northern California Liaison Wayne Atwell or email him at [watwell@toconline.com](mailto:watwell@toconline.com). The TOC office is located on the clubhouse level next to the Horse Wizards room.

With the conclusion of the Golden Gate Fields Winter/Spring meet, let's congratulate the top owners in terms of wins - Tommy Town Thoroughbreds LLC (24), Barbara Delima (11), and Gary Barber (11). We would also like to congratulate Tommy Town Thoroughbreds LLC as the leading money earning owner of \$610,182. Finally, a big shout out to owners John and Diane Fradkin for their victories in the El Camino Real Stakes and Preakness Stakes with their homebred Rombauer, the fourth horse to complete the El Camino Stakes-Preakness double. Rombauer made for one of the most exciting meets ever at Golden Gate Fields during such a challenging time!

## A Message from Breeders' Cup

The Breeders' Cup World Championships will be making a return to scenic Del Mar Racetrack this fall on November 5 and November 6. After a difficult year for so many, we are thrilled to be returning to this seaside locale for the second time. We hope you will join us for a spectacular weekend of world-class racing.

There will be 22 races offered over the Championship weekend, totaling over \$31 million in purses and awards. This includes 14 Breeders' Cup World Championship graded stakes and eight undercard races totaling \$1.5 million. We are pleased once again to include two California bred races, the Golden State Juvenile and the Golden State Juvenile Fillies Stakes, on Future Stars Friday.

For non-participating horsemen, tickets go on sale opening day of the Del Mar summer meet, July 16th. Seating will be held in reserve for owners, trainers and breeders of horses competing during the Breeders' Cup. (Breeders' Cup Ticketing - (859) 422-2697)

Visit our members website for more information regarding this year's event, as well as to view our 2021 Win and You're In Challenge Series schedule ([www.members.breederscup.com](http://www.members.breederscup.com)). The 2021 Horsemen's Information Guide will be available this summer, which has information you need about participating on racing's biggest stage.

Please let us know if you have any questions leading up to the Championships. We wish you the best of racing luck and look forward to seeing you at Del Mar!



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Chief Racing Officer  
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(859) 514-9422

# Welcome Back To Fans, Horses and Turf Meeting Surf

by Josh Rubinstein

President & COO, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

We're off and running again at Del Mar on Friday, July 16. Following a year when – contrary to its very nature – the seaside track did not host its usual full complement of excited racing fans, the 2021 season promises to be an exciting one with a return of the Thoroughbred sport in full force in its most scenic setting for a lively eight-week run.

The track will initially present two three-day weeks (Friday through Sunday), then starting on July 29 it will offer six four-day weeks (Thursday through Sunday) and finish up with a closing card on Labor Day Monday, September 6.

Our racing team – led by Tom Robbins and David Jerkens – has a general plan that will present 11-race cards on all Saturdays, 9-, 10- or 11-race cards on Sundays, 8-race cards on Fridays, and 7-race cards on Thursdays. We are projecting a total of 283 races over the course of the 31-day season, which is one more race than was run in 2020.

Highlighting the racing as always will be the track's robust stakes schedule, which this year will boast a remarkable 30% increase in purses compared to 2020. Last year Del Mar scheduled 32 major stakes worth \$5,175,000. This summer there will be 34 stakes carrying a value of \$6,750,000. The stakes' increases range from \$25,000 to \$250,000.

"This is one of the strongest stakes schedules in Del Mar's history," said

Jerkins, a track vice president and its racing secretary. "We have increased purses virtually across the board, and it will be exciting to see the level of quality we attract, especially as we are the home to the Breeders' Cup this year." Del Mar again will host the Breeders' Cup World Championships on Friday and Saturday, November 5 and 6. The seaside track held the event previously in 2017.

Besides its solid stakes program, Del Mar has announced a notable 30% increase to its average daily overnight purses. The track believes it will offer more than \$700,000 a day in purses over the course of the summer.

The track's "Ship & Win" program returns for its 11th season bolstered by record enhancements to its highly popular horse recruitment vehicle. Out-of-state runners who set up shop at Del Mar will automatically earn a record \$4,000 starter bonus and the opportunity to earn a further 50% purse supplement for

all dirt runners and a 40% supplement for turf types. It is noted that 70% of recent "S&W" purses were earned by local connections who went out and got outside runners to compete at Del Mar.

Del Mar is very appreciative of the partnership we have with the TOC and its members. We wish you all the best and much racing luck this summer.



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