



From the EXECUTIVE CORNER



TERRY LOVINGIER

CTBA CHAIRPERSON

I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF SERVING under Don Valpredo and Pete Parrella on the CTBA. I've had the pleasure of serving under Mike Pegram, Nick Alexander, and now Gary Fenton on the TOC. I can't think of finer individuals to sit with on boards. Both TOC and CTBA have active very good board members.

A lot of good things are happening in California horse rac-

ing, and it has everything to do with leadership at the racetracks, TOC, CTBA, trainers, and all those at every level. We have all worked together for the betterment of horse racing.

Gary Fenton, a managing partner of Little Red Feather Racing Club, is incredibly intelligent and articulate. His March 17 message to the TOC is very much worth reprinting here:

To Our Members,

Last month, longtime and respected TOC chairman Nick Alexander stepped down after five years of service in that demanding role. I was both humbled and honored when the Board voted to elect me the new TOC chairman.

One of my priorities as chairman will be to increase the ongoing communication between TOC and our membership. So starting with this letter, please expect a monthly communication from me that is intended to keep you apprised of major developments and to open up pathways for future dialogs on issues that matter to you.

I am a firm believer that owners are the driving force in our sport, and as such it is critical to have as many owners as possible actively involved with TOC. So, let's get to it.

SUPPLEMENTAL PURSE INCREASE

Many of you have heard of the supplemental purse enhancements announced in January. To recap, after lengthy negotiations beginning last September, TOC was successful in securing \$6,750,000 in extra purse money for 2021 from TVG/FanDuel and Xpressbet. A big thank you to FanDuel and The Stronach Group for recognizing the 2020 ADW windfall and providing California owners with an unprecedented injection into our purse accounts.

Today we are excited to announce we finalized the 2021 track allotments that are based on a variety of factors, including the amount of ADW wagering on each California track over the past few years:

Santa Anita Park:	\$3,268,687.50
Del Mar Thoroughbred Club:	\$2,172,312.50
Golden Gate:	\$715,000
Los Alamitos:	\$459,000
CARF:	\$135,000

If anyone sees Vice Chairman Bob Liewald at the races, give him his due props for being the guiding light behind much of the ADW negotiations.

These new purses are already having a positive impact. Santa Anita raised purses 10% for its current meet over 2020 levels with additional mid-meet increases expected in the coming months. Del Mar announced a tremendous summer purse schedule that is approximately 30% higher than 2020. As an example, the purse of maiden special weight races will be \$70,000.

SPORTS WAGERING

Along with the purse enhancements, many of you have heard about the 2022 California Sports Wagering ballot initiative,

which, if passed, would legalize sports wagering at tribal casinos and four racetracks (Golden Gate Fields, Santa Anita, Del Mar, and Los Alamitos). For the past three years TOC has been actively involved in all facets of the sports wagering discussion, most recently playing a pivotal role in the negotiations with gaming tribes to ensure racing was included in the Sports Wagering ballot initiative. While it is still early in the process, TOC is hopeful the net result from the legalization of sports wagering in California and new sports gaming revenue-sharing agreements to be negotiated with the racetracks will add as much as \$10 million a year in new purse revenues statewide by 2023.

STABLE AND VANNING

The Stable & Vanning Committee recently gave notice to Southern California trainers that while there will be no noticeable changes to stabling in 2021, the current economics are not sustainable. In 2020 the horse population at our two primary auxiliary facilities in San Luis Rey and Los Alamitos dropped by 50% with costs remaining the same. We are currently taking a deep-dive look into the program in the hopes of outlining a long-term solution. Nothing is off the table, including but not limited to, rebatable stall rent, closing or expanding an auxiliary facility, or putting Del Mar online as a year-round training center. The Stable & Vanning program is funded equally by the TOC purse account and the racetracks. Every dollar saved is put back into purses.

SANTA ANITA PARK APRIL UPDATE

In a sign that we might have finally reached "the beginning of the end" of the COVID-19 pandemic, Santa Anita Park opened its doors to fans again on Santa Anita Derby weekend. A "capacity crowd" got to witness firsthand a great day of racing that resulted in remarkably strong all-sources wagering handle of more than \$25 million!

Through the first four months of the winter/spring meet, the most important metrics indicate that all TOC tracks show a positive resurgence. Field size is up, handle is up, and catastrophic injuries are down. I want to thank each and every Southern California owner for staying the course with TOC and California racing through the two most difficult years ever for racing at Santa Anita in 2019-20. While horsemen have been bombarded with new rules and regulations over this time, it's important to note that horseplayers don't seem to mind the changes as wagering handle continues to grow. If this trend continues, the 2022 winter/spring meet might bring yet another purse bump.

Yours truly,
Gary Fenton