

Developments

Industry News • Announcements • People & Events

Couto Leaves TOC Post

Drew J. Couto, a founding director of Thoroughbred Owners of California, who served for the past five years as president, has stepped down in an amicable arrangement with the Board.



Drew J. Couto

Following a meeting, the Board announced June 25 that Couto's contract would not be renewed and that an executive search to fill the position would begin immediately.

According to TOC Chair, Marsha Naify, day-to-day operations will be handled on an interim basis by Guy Lamothe, Executive Vice President. Naify will serve as Couto's replacement on various California boards where TOC has a voting interest.

"Drew has served the organization well during his tenure over the years. We thank him for his service and wish him all the best for the future," Naify said.

TOC Begins Search for New President

Following the decision not to renew the former President's contract, the search is under way for a new President of the organization. Please refer to TOC's website, www.toconline.com, for all the latest details on how the Board of Directors will handle filling this important post going forward.

Breeders' Cup Offers "Stimulus Plan"

The Breeders' Cup announced a \$100 discount off the standard \$500 nomination fee for all foals nominated electronically (online) by the close of business August 1 to the Breeders' Cup program. The early online discount is intended to stimulate nominator participation during the chal-

lenging economic environment and to encourage greater use of the Internet to increase efficiency and the reduce costs.

All foals sired by a fully nominated Breeders' Cup stallion, European Breeders' Fund stallion, or BCL/EBF Common Fund stallion are eligible for nomination to the Breeders' Cup program in their year of birth. The standard \$500 foal nomination, for those choosing not to nominate online, will remain in effect, with a deadline of midnight (ET), October 15. Late foal nominations may be made by midnight (ET) December 15 of the year of birth by payment of a one-time \$1,500 nomination fee.

The Breeders' Cup foal nomination program began in 1983 with a standard \$500 per foal fee. The standard fee has never been increased since its inception. The late nomination fee of \$1,500 per foal by December 15 was introduced in 2004.

A Breeders' Cup-nominated foal is eligible to participate and earn full purses in the \$25.5 million Breeders' Cup World Championships races and in the Breeders' Cup Stakes program for its entire racing career without any further nomination payments due. In 2008, approximately 3,500 of the total 14,602 foals were nominated to the Breeders' Cup before August 1. Early nomination insures the Breeders' Cup nomination is included on the catalog page for weanlings entered into November sales.

Early foal nomination for 2009 is available at: www.breederscup.com.

RMTC Implements Initiatives on Lab Standards

Beginning a process that will result in the most significant changes to drug testing in the United States in more than three decades, the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) board of directors has approved new national laboratory standards for testing, the implementation of a laboratory accreditation program, and a new independent Equine Quality Assurance Program.

The new drug testing initiatives are part

of sweeping reforms in the US racing's drug testing strategy, and are the result of unprecedented collaboration during the past 10 months among the RMTC member organizations, including the TOC. The Drug Testing Initiative (DTI) Task Force, which includes prominent industry scientists, veterinarians, and industry leaders, has provided and continues to provide support and advice to the RMTC Board on drug testing issues.

"The RMTC has adopted standards that all testing laboratories will have to meet to gain accreditation and we have begun the actual accreditation process," said Alan Foreman, RMTC Vice Chairman. "The new Equine Quality Assurance Program will provide an independent, third-party examination of equine drug testing laboratories, which is a totally new concept for the horse racing industry. This work is unprecedented and ultimately will change the face of drug testing in this country."

Santa Anita Sale Timeline Set by Miller Buckfire

Miller Buckfire & Co., LLC, in coordination with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware, set forth the following timeline for the auction of Santa Anita Park's assets:

- July 31 – Definitive Bids Due: Qualified bidders submit binding bids, financing, and deposit.
- August 7 – Stalking Horse Bid: Debtor and Creditor's Committee select a bidder with highest and best value and enter into a "stalking horse" agreement.
- September 8 – Auction Hearing: Held in New York for consideration of the Stalking Horse Bid and other Definitive Bids, each as may be increased at such auction.
- September 13 – Closing: Winning bid announced.



Team TOC Competes in Derby Day Run

TOC staff showed their team spirit with a great effort in this year's Santa Anita Derby Day 5K Run on Saturday, April 4. Making up "Team TOC" were Executive Vice President, Guy Lamothe, and his daughter, Erin; Project Coordinator, Ali LaDuke; Director of Owner Services, Lucinda Mandella; and Director of Operations, Mary Forney. In the "Santa Anita Horsemen" category, Lamothe finished in 4th place for men; in the women's division of that category, Forney took 4th place, the younger Lamothe 9th, LaDuke 14th, and Mandella 15th. Way to go, Team TOC!

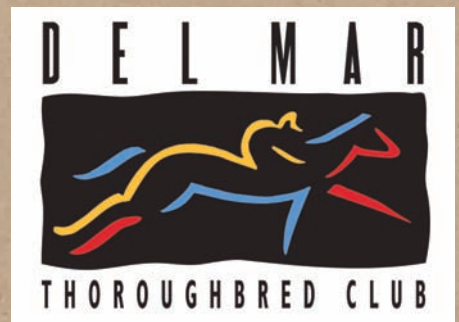
CERF Celebrity Golf Classic

The ever popular CERF (California Equine Retirement Foundation) Celebrity Golf Classic returns to Del Mar this summer on Tuesday, Aug. 4 at the Del Mar Country Club. Returning as honorary host at this year's event is world-famous jockey Alex Solis. Solis and many of his celebrity friends will be there for another challenging day of golf.

The day will begin with registration at 11:00 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. for the scramble tournament golf. There will be lunch on the course and on-course contests. Following golf will be the awards dinner at 6:00 p.m. with a no-host bar and silent and live auctions with Trevor Denman as master of ceremonies.

Founded in 1986, CERF has been giving ex-racehorses a happy home for over 23 years and is well-known throughout the industry for its uncompromising commitment to our equine friends. When their racing days are over, CERF gives horses a home where they can retire in comfort or, if appropriate, be rehabilitated and moved on to their next career. CERF houses more than 70 residents daily, many of whom will be living out their final days at the CERF Ranch in Winchester, California. All proceeds from this event will be used exclusively for the care of these horses.

The individual registration fee is \$350, with sponsorship packages, including a foursome of golfers, available from \$2,000 up. For additional information or to sign up, call (951) 926-4190 or visit <http://cerfhorses.org>.



Del Mar Introduces "My Del Mar"

In an effort to provide easier access to racing information, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club has introduced "My Del Mar" for Horsemen. Information available includes overnights, work tabs, condition books, stakes closings, stakes nominations, programs, and general horsemen's information.

To sign up, visit their website, www.delmarracing.com, and click on "My Del Mar." You can also choose to receive updates about pick six carryovers, concerts, and special events through Del Mar's e-News.

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