



# DEVELOPMENTS

## INDUSTRY NEWS, & ANNOUNCEMENTS, PEOPLE & EVENTS

### TOC Working in Sacramento to Advance Racing

With the California Legislative year picking up speed, TOC has been active in meeting with key legislators, all in the hopes of advancing TOC's key political objective – a comprehensive plan to stabilize the industry and to revise and renew ADW legislation.

As part of that effort, on March 12th and 13th, TOC Chairman Alan Landsburg, Vice Chairs Tom Bachman and Marsha Naify, Director Madeline Auerbach, President Drew J. Couto, and Executive Director Guy Lamothe attended a series of meetings with legislative leadership, and the Governor's office, seeking meaningful legislation critical to the future of horseracing in California.

In advocating stabilization – partially in the form of “mitigation” from California's Native American tribes as authorized by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (“IGRA”) – TOC representatives sought to demonstrate that Thoroughbred racing has been adversely impacted by the success of out-of-state racing jurisdictions able to supplement their purses with revenues from alternative forms of gaming such as slots and video lottery terminals (“VLTs”). As part of this objective, TOC seeks to “put a human face” on racing, stressing the diversity of the thousands of Californians – the people, not corporations – whose livelihoods depend upon a competitive industry.

Their effort was to further educate lawmakers not just about current legislative issues, but about the magnitude of the industry, its 50,000 jobs and its \$2.5 billion annual impact on the California economy.

TOC will continue to “take the reins” this year with a legislative agenda and public relations program aimed at increasing the visibility of the dynamic and diverse people who make up this industry, and by reinforcing the significance of racing's issues to key legislators and policymakers, all in the hopes of creating greater public awareness of the need to restore competitive balance to California's racing industry.



### Suarez and Jaime Accept Eclipse Award for Thor's Echo

Congratulations to owners Pablo Suarez and Royce Jaime, and to trainer Doug O'Neill, who were joined by family and friends at the 36th Annual Eclipse Awards in January, when Thor's Echo was named Champion Sprinter of 2006.

In a dominant late-season campaign, Thor's Echo scored powerful victories in

the TVG Breeders' Cup Sprint (Grade 1), and the De Francis Memorial Dash (Grade 1). Suarez and Jaime sold Thor's Echo to Sheikh Rashid earlier this year.

## Del Mar Installs Polytrack

Del Mar Thoroughbred Club will debut a new Polytrack racing surface for its 2007 meet, which begins July 18. The engineered surface – which consists primarily of silica sand, fibers, recycled rubber and wax – makes Del Mar the fourth horseracing facility in North America to install this advanced racing surface.



“The key to the future is safety,” said DMTC president and general manager Joe Harper. “Polytrack is going to make our racing surface a safer place for our horses and riders – and we know if we do that, good things will follow. We are in the horse business and our top priority must be the horses and riders.”

After receiving approval from the California Coastal Commission in December 2006, Del Mar began the roughly three-month installation process in early January. Currently, Hollywood Park is the only track in California offering an engineered surface. The Inglewood facility chose Cushion Track as its surface.

About a year and a half ago, the California Horse Racing Board directed all California racing associations conducting a live race meet of at least four weeks duration to install an engineered racing surface by the end of 2007.

Golden Gate Fields is set to install a new Tapeta Footings, Inc. (“Tapeta”) racing surface this summer. In February, MEC Chairman Frank Stronach publicly confirmed the company's commitment to install an engineered surface at Santa Anita this summer, indicating that a final decision on the surface's manufacturer would be

made sometime this Spring.

Del Mar's track renovation is expected to be completed and available for limited training/testing this month. The installation process, from start to finish, can be viewed on Del Mar's “PolyTrackCam” on its website, at [www.dmtc.com](http://www.dmtc.com).

## California Tote Contract Awarded to SciGames

After an extensive bid and review process, a new California totalizator (“tote”) contract was awarded to Scientific Games (formerly “Autotote”). Beginning last Fall, a working group consisting of representatives of the California racetracks and TOC undertook the lengthy and complicated process of evaluating and comparing bid proposals from each of three major tote companies – Amtote, Scientific Games, and United Tote.

Chris Korby of CARF (California Authority of Racing Fairs), who made the announcement on behalf of the industry group at the January CHRB meeting, noted that, “We envision an entirely new, state-of-the-art tote system with a high level of security, reliability, and redundancy, a new level of graphics, and a new look.”

California racing fans will soon benefit from these new tote technologies,

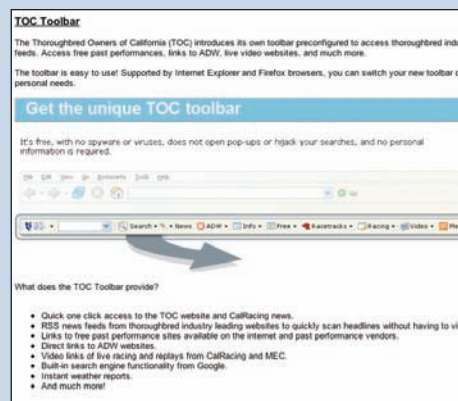


which include everything from modern wagering terminals, to remote and on-track mobile wagering systems, to cashless wagering cards. Installation of the new system will be undertaken in phases, beginning this summer, with completion by the end of September.

## CHRB to Enforce Rule Banning Toe Grabs

At its February 22 meeting, the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) voted to enforce the existing rule banning long toe grabs (4 mm or greater) on the front shoes of Thoroughbreds competing in races. Enforcement will begin no later than the start of the Hollywood Park and Golden Gate Fields meetings, on April 25.

At that meeting, Dr. Rick Arthur, the State's Equine Medical Director, cited various studies, including extensive research performed at UC Davis, demonstrating a correlation between racehorse injuries and toe grabs higher than 4 millimeters. The Jockeys' Guild, Hollywood Park, and TOC joined with Dr. Arthur in urging the Board to enforce the rule banning such toe grabs.



## TOC “Toolbar” Touted

The latest tool on the TOC website has gained some national attention. In a review in the March/April 2007 issue of *Horseplayer Magazine*, Jon Forbes wrote, “The Thoroughbred Owners of California created a toolbar for Microsoft Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox, specifically with racing fans in mind. The toolbar gives you direct links to racing news, advance deposit wagering websites, free past performances, race track and auction websites, and equine retirement foundations.”

Proposed and created by Wayne Atwell – TOC's Northern California Assistant Director of Operations and de facto “webmaster” – the toolbar is free and easy to download at [www.toconline.com](http://www.toconline.com).