

## Recalling the Highlights of 2005

A warm, sun-drenched autumn greatly assisted racing in the North. Bay Meadows ended its 33-day meeting on Oct. 16 with what management termed, “our best meeting ever.” Although this short meeting did not receive the financial boost of operating on Breeders’ Cup and Cal Cup days, it was greatly assisted by the calendar changes surrounding the cancellation of Thoroughbred racing at Cal Expo – which created ten non-live simulcast days, versus four such days in previous years. Daily purse generation shot up to \$170,351 from an average the previous year of \$145,774 – an increase of 17%. Even without the benefit of the simulcast days, average purse revenues climbed to \$155,000, assisted by an increase of \$7,000/day in additional purse generation from advance deposit wagering. Beyond the numbers, there was a significant upbeat spirit among the on-track fans, and certainly no one in attendance will forget Lost in the Fog’s performance in the Bay Meadows’ Speed Handicap, when he not only got a standing ovation after his victory, but **before** the race as well.

In 2006, Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields will “swap” their dates; thus, Golden Gate will run the early fall dates for the first time. Once again, Cal Expo will continue with their harness racing program, and we look forward to the same positive results in 2006.

Golden Gate Fields ran its Fall/Winter meet from Oct. 19 to Dec. 19 and, once again, took advantage of the warmest November on record to card plenty of turf racing. Those

races were augmented by shippers from the South, with their purses supplemented by a Hollywood Park sponsorship – which was unable to offer its scheduled turf program this fall due to the failure of its new turf course. Through the end of November, Golden Gate maintained a 7.7 horse per race field size; a definite improvement over prior years!

MEC recently named Robert Hartman the new General Manager of Golden Gate Fields. Mr. Hartman comes with a broad background in racing and sports marketing. With the growing likelihood that the Bay Meadows property will be developed within a few years, TOC looks forward to the next phase of MEC’s plans to make Golden Gate a top-notch, fan-friendly racing/entertainment facility.

If there is to be one lingering memory of Northern California racing in 2005, it will certainly be the great ride that Lost In The Fog took all of us on throughout the year! With ten wins in a row, taking on all comers from coast to

coast, he captured the imagination of both horsemen and fans. Hearty congratulations and thank you to his connections, long-time Northern California owner, Harry Aleo, and his trainer, Greg Gilchrist! The best news, however, is that the ride isn’t over... Lost In The Fog is currently on a brief vacation in Florida, but the plans are to campaign him again in 2006.



*Lost in the Fog with Russell Baze wins the Golden Bear Breeders’ Cup Stakes at Golden Gate Fields, 5/14/2005.*

## Tracking Trends

DAILY ATTENDANCE & WAGERING through Monday, December 19, 2005

	Racedays	Reported Attendance		Pari-mutuel Wagering		Pari-mutuel Purse Revenues	
<b>2005 Hollywood Park Fall - Final</b>	27	12,758	-6.8%	\$8,547,086	-3.3%	\$327,472	+0.7%
On-Track		5,199	-10.9%	\$1,309,921	-1.1%	\$90,353	-2.0%
Off-Track		7,559	-3.8%	\$2,590,146	-3.0%	\$121,337	-4.9%
CA ADW				\$958,589	+28.1%	\$48,002	+53.6%
Out-of-State (Reg. & ADW)				\$3,688,429	-10.0%	\$67,780	-8.4%
<b>2005 Oak Tree - Final</b>	31	16,966	-3.5%	\$9,243,659	+0.46%	\$364,244	-0.9%
On-Track		8,494	-1.9%	\$1,950,220	+2.9%	\$128,927	-4.0%
Off-Track		8,472	-5.0%	\$2,592,571	-5.5%	\$118,237	-8.4%
CA ADW				\$935,386	+31.6%	\$47,821	+52.7%
Out-of-State (Reg. & ADW)				\$3,765,482	-1.5%	\$69,259	-4.8%